MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 DECEMBER 1981

Libyan Airliner Hijacking

Citing a Foreign Ministry announcement, Tehran radio reported that in response to a Libyan request, Iran allowed the Libyan airliner hijacked on a flight from Zurich to Tripoli to land at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport. The radio later reported that the hijackers handed a list of demands to Iranian authorities, including the resumption of investigations into the disappearance of the Lebanese Shi'ite leader Imam Musa as-Sadr and the formation of a commission to follow up the matter. They also authorized Iranian officials to negotiate on their behalf with Libyan officials. According to subsequent Tehran radio reports, Iranian Foreign Ministry officials began negotiations with the hijackers and agreed to their request that the aircraft be refueled.

Earlier, Rome radio had reported that the aircraft landed at Ciampino military airport after previous stops in Beirut and Athens, and that it took off 3 hours later after refueling. According to KUNA, in Beirut, where the plane landed for the second time, armed Shi'ite Amal Movement militiamen took over control of the airport to clear the runway and refuel the aircraft. KUNA said the 5 hijackers were replaced by 10 colleagues from the Amal Movement before the plane took off for Tehran.

Beirut radio reported that the hijackers are members of an organization calling itself the "mujahadin of Imam as-Sadr." Voice of Lebanon carried a recorded statement by the leader of the hijackers, Hamzah, who vowed: "We shall rescue the leader imam...whatever the cost." Citing REUTER, Beirut radio said Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri denied any connection with the hijackers. Meanwhile, in its first monitored report on the hijacking, Tripoli radio blamed it on CIA agents who have infiltrated the Amal Movement. The radio said the hijacking marks the start of a new CIA campaign of terrorist actions against Libya.

Israel

Cheysson Visit -- Jerusalem radio broadcast a joint Israeli-French communique issued at the end of French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's visit to Israel that said Cheysson's talks with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir have enabled France and Israel to achieve "better mutual understanding" on Middle East issues. Noting that the talks were held in a warm, friendly and open atmosphere, it said Shamir has accepted an invitation to visit France shortly. Both sides agreed to strengthen economic and cultural cooperation, the communique added, and will set up a joint economic committee.

Jerusalem radio reported that prior to his departure Cheysson told an airport news conference that both Israel and France want the Middle East peace process to include a solution to the Palestinian problem, but do not agree about the way to solve it. He added that "in addition to Camp David, it may be necessary to develop other ways to solve the problem." According to the radio's English service, Cheysson also said that while France does not object to further European declarations of principle on the Middle East, initiatives and plans should be proposed and discussed between those directly concerned, and not by countries which are not directly involved in a Middle East peace settlement.

IDF radio broadcast remarks by Foreign Minister Shamir at the airport news conference in which he expressed satisfaction at Cheysson's "repeated announcements" that there will be no more European initiatives on Middle East affairs. Speaking of a "joint, basic view" on the Camp David agreements, Shamir asserted that while French and Israeli viewpoints are not identical, "misunderstanding" has disappeared from their common vocabulary. In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Shamir noted that the two sides discussed Franco-Iraqi nuclear cooperation, but said there was nothing more to add on the subject, since "nothing is happening at present on this issue."

Gaza, West Bank Protests -- Reporting the continuation and expansion of the Gaza Strip strike, Jerusalem radio noted that security forces have welded shut 170 shops involved in the strike. The radio also reported disruptions of order and the imposition of a curfew in Rafah following the death of a youth in a demonstration there. The radio's English service broadcast a statement by Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa in which he told an Israeli reporter not to interpret the strike as a revolt against the value-added tax, but as a rejection of Israeli occupation and a demand for Palestinian self-determination.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported renewed disturbances on the West Bank, with tear gas being used to disperse demonstrators in Ramallah and other disturbances in Nabulus and ad-Duhayshah.

Lebanon

Habib Mission -- U.S. special envoy Philip Habib arrived in Beirut and met with President Ilyas Sarkis, Beirut radio reported. The radio later reported Habib's departure. It gave no details of the talks.

PLO

WAM reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in Abu Dhabi. Asserting that the meeting led to an improvement in PLO-Austrian relations, which became strained last August, AFP said Kreisky asked 'Arafat to post a senior PLO representative to Vienna. According to a related Vienna radio report, Kreisky earlier told journalists that misunderstandings between the PLO and Austria have been eliminated.

Iran

Replies to Khomeyni Message -- In response to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's 7 December message concerning illegal detentions and seizures of property, the Supreme Judicial Council sent a letter to Khomeyni, broadcast by Tehran radio, admitting that such misconduct has not been completely eliminated. It expressed the hope that the formation of the State Inspectorate General and the planned court of justice would help improve the situation and it pledged the council's continued cooperation. The radio later broadcast a letter from the council to the Inspectorate General asking that body to spare no efforts in investigating offenses committed by ministries and revolutionary institutions.

Tehran radio also broadcast the text of a circular issued by the State Inspectorate General to all ministries, government-related bodies and revolutionary institutions ordering them to act legally, report all violations to the Inspectorate General, follow its recommendation and cooperate fully with it. The Revolution Guards Corps also issued a statement broadcast by the radio pledging that the guards will prevent illegal seizures of property, will not enter homes without a legal warrant and will cooperate fully with the Inspectorate General.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 236 *9 December 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

OAPEC Issues Statement on Adjournment 8 Dec [WAKH] A 1
Chairman Elaborates [QNA] A 1
'Arafat Warns of New Israeli Attack in Lebanon [VOP] A 1
'Arafat Meets Chancellor Kreisky in Abu Dhabi [WAM] A 2
AFP Says Kreisky Requested New PLO Envoy A 2
'Arafat Still Committed to Cease-Fire in South [AS-SAFIR 4 Dec] A 3
AFP: PLO Leader Receiving Treatment in Grenoble A 3
Hawatimah Press Conference Remarks on Issues [cross-reference] A 3

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Spain's Juan Carlos Holds Talks With Amir Departs for Jordan C 1
New Television Channel Makes Debut 1 Dec [GULF DAILY NEWS 2 Dec] C 1

KUWAIT

Clarification of Cheysson Remarks Sought C 3
AS-SIYASAH Cites U.S. Report on Arab Diplomacy [7 Dec] C 3

SAUDI ARABIA

Chief of Staff Meets With ROK Counterpart C 4

UAE

Official on Talks With Austria's Kreisky C 4
Kreisky, 'Arafat Hold Unexpected Meeting [Vienna] C 4
Decline in Crude Oil Production Reported C 5

YAR

PDRY President's Envoy Delivers Message to Salih C 5

EGYPT

Mubarak Briefs NDP Parliamentary Body 5 Dec D 1

IRAQ

Armed Forces General Command Communique 546 E 1
Iran Warned Against Killing War Prisoners E 1
Romanian Premier Arrives in Baghdad 8 Dec E 2
Baghdad Radio Reports Clashes, Curfew in Aleppo E 2

JORDAN

AR-RA'Y On Cheysson Statement, EEC Initiative [9 Dec] F 1
AD-DUSTUR Deplores Cheysson Remarks in Israel [9 Dec] F 1
Two Loan Agreements Signed With Saudi Arabia F 2

LEBANON

5 Hijackers of Libyan Airliner Deplane in Beirut [KUNA] G 1
Amal Denies Connection G 1
Hijacker Statement G 1
AN-NAHAR Commentary on U.S.-Israeli Agreement [2 Dec] G 2

SYRIA

Progressive Front Central Command Holds Meeting H 1
ATH-THAWRAH on U.S. Middle East Designs H 1
AL-BA'TH Views European Middle East Policy H 2
Al-Asad Receives Cables From Jordan, Cyprus H 2

ISRAEL

HA'ARETZ: Jordan Preparing Peace Initiative [9 Dec] I 1
Antistrategic Pact Movement Established I 1
Shamir Hails Outcome of Cheysson Visit I 2
Joint Communique I 2
Cheysson Departs I 2
Details on Cheysson-Shamir News Conference I 3
Cheysson on European Initiatives; Arens Comments I 3
POST Welcomes Success of Cheysson's Visit I 4
Sharon: Terrorism in North Unacceptable I 5
Gaza Strike Continues, Mayor Comments I 5
Strike to Continue I 6
Curfew in Rafah I 6
Disturbances Continue I 7
Cabinet Position on Sharon Africa Trip [HA'ARETZ 7 Dec] I 7
TV Reports UN Call for End to Canal Project I 8
Energy Minister on Canal I 8
Finance Minister Was in Paris To See Rothschild [MA'ARIV 7 Dec] I 8
Clandestine Communist Party Established in Gaza I 9
POST Poll Shows Sharon's Popularity Increasing [8 Dec] I 9
TV, Radio Broadcast Work in Arabic Reviewed [POST 7 Dec] I 10

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Reportage on Afro-Arab Conference in Luanda P 1
Frelimo Delegates Speech P 3
Seychelles President's Message P 4
Regional Food Commission Meets in Accra P 5
Leader Sees Reluctance to Aid Chad Force [AFP] P 5

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

JANA Reports U.S. Planned Measures Against Libya Q 1
Al-'Ubaydi Comments on Moynihan's Statements Q 1
Arab-U.S. Committee Chairman on U.S. Claims Q 2
Tripoli Sees CIA Role in Hijack of Libyan Plane Q 2
JANA Reports Tehran Landing Q 3
Paper Explains Libyan Rapid Deployment Force Q 3
[AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR 30 Nov]
PFLP Cables Support to Leader Al-Qadhdhafi Q 5

MAURITANIA

Chief of State Receives Message From Iraq Leader Q 5
Briefs: FRG Development Loan Q 6

SUDAN

President Sends Message to Syrian Counterpart Q 6

WESTERN SAHARA

Minister Views Sahara Issue, French Role Q 7
[L'HUMANITE 27 Nov]

EAST AFRICA

KENYA

Involvement in Seychelles Coup Attempt Denied R 1

SEYCHELLES

President Asks Kenya To Investigate Coup [AFP] R 1

TANZANIA

Foreign Minister Withdraws From UN Race R 2
Nyerere Cables SFRY President on National Day R 2

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Paper Calls for Restoring Ties With Israel T 1

NIGERIA

NEWSWEEK Report on Aircraft Sale Denied T 1

OAPEC ISSUES STATEMENT ON ADJOURNMENT 8 DEC

GF081611 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Dec (WAKH) -- OAPEC issued a statement today on the adjournment of the 27th OAPEC meeting that was held in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The statement says the reason for the adjournment was Libya's request to postpone consideration of Tunisia's application for OAPEC membership, because Libyan authorities had not finished studying the application.

Moreover, the statement says that after having discussed this subject thoroughly, the session was adjourned by a unanimous decision. It will not reconvene until a reply on Tunisia's membership in OAPEC has been received from Libya.

The statement adds that prior to taking up the agenda, Judge 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mansuri took the oath of office before the council, thus completing the swearing-in procedures for all judges of the organization's judiciary committee. The council then ratified the minutes of the previous meeting and approved the current agenda. It then began discussing Tunisia's application for OAPEC membership.

Chairman Elaborates

GF081146 Doha QNA in Arabic 1046 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Dec (QNA) -- Bahraini Development and Industry Ministry [and OAPEC Chairman] Yusuf ash-Shirawi said that efforts are being made to persuade Libya to change its attitude on Tunisia's admission to OAPEC.

In a statement he made in Abu Dhabi today before leaving for home, he said that OAPEC's meetings were suspended because no response was received from Libya to the request to withdraw its objection to Tunisia's admission. However, he said he expects a reply to be received in a few days. He added that the oil ministers of the Arab countries that are members of OPEC are at present in Abu Dhabi to attend the meetings of the OPEC ministerial council which begins tomorrow.

Ash-Shirawi said that he will return to Abu Dhabi once a reply is received from Libya to the request to withdraw its objection in order to resume the OAPEC meetings. He said the OAPEC ministerial council views Tunisia's admission to OAPEC as an economic and industrial matter and sees no reason for postponing Tunisia's admission. He said that during the OAPEC council's only session all ministers declared their support for Tunisia's application and viewed it as a pan-Arab demand. Moreover, he said, Tunisia, is part of the Arab world and enjoys all the membership conditions laid down by the OAPEC Secretariat.

In conclusion the Bahraini minister expressed optimism that a positive response will be received from Libya and that the OAPEC council will resume its meeting.

'ARAFAT WARNS OF NEW ISRAELI ATTACK IN LEBANON

NC090750 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday warned of a large-scale Israeli operation against Lebanon starting from southern Lebanon. He stressed that the joint forces are ready to firmly confront any Israeli aggression.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony of a general mobilization course in Ar-Rashidiyah camp in southern Lebanon, in the presence of Brother Haj Isma'il, commander of the joint forces in the south and some of the joint forces cadres and a crowd of Palestinian and Lebanese people, Abu 'Ammar said: I challenge Sharon and Begin -- who make threatening statements each day -- with these heroes, the recruits of the general mobilization who pour new blood into the Palestinian forces and the joint forces every day in the midst of ordeals through which the Palestinian revolution is passing.

Reviewing current developments in the area and in Lebanon, Abu 'Ammar emphasized the independence of the Palestinian decision and its importance to the revolution's march. He praised the patriotic stand of martyr Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Kayyali. He pointed to what happened in the Fes summit conference, saying he told the Arab leaders that he had announced general mobilization in the revolution ranks before he went to Fes. He told the Arab leaders: You return to your countries and I return to my people in the camps to continue the fight against the Zionist enemy. He warned that any traitor to the Palestinian cause will face the same fate as As-Sadat. He said: It is no coincidence that the group that assassinated As-Sadat called itself the Al-Aqsa Mosque group and not Kuwait or Port Said.

'ARAFAT MEETS CHANCELLOR KREISKY IN ABU DHABI

GF090745 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has held a meeting with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky during which the situation in the Middle East and PLO-Austrian relations were discussed. The meeting was held at the Austrian chancellor's residence at (Al-Musharraf) Palace and was attended by Abu al-Walid, Mahmud al-Labadi and PLO representative in the UAE Ribhi 'Awad. The meeting was also attended by a number of the delegation members accompanying the Austrian chancellor and lasted 35 minutes. Afterwards, 'Arafat and the Austrian chancellor met in closed session privately.

'Arafat went immediately to (Al-Musharraf) Palace after his arrival at 0830 and met with the Austrian chancellor.

AFP SAYS KREISKY REQUESTED NEW PLO ENVOY

NC090828 Paris AFP in English 0817 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Dec (AFP) -- Austria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) moved towards better relations here today at a meeting in which Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky asked PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat for a new senior PLO representative in Vienna.

The previous representative, Ghazi Husayn, left Vienna at Austrian request last August 10 after allegations that he was involved with two Arabs suspected of arms smuggling. Mr Husayn said he was "going on holiday."

Austrian relations with the PLO were also strained after a grenade and sub-machine gun attack on a Jewish synagogue in Vienna on August 29, said to have been carried out by Arabs though the PLO denied responsibility.

Mr. Kreisky, who had cultivated relations with the PLO, announced his request for a new high-level PLO representative "of great prestige" after today's talks with Mr. 'Arafat, who arrived here unexpectedly this morning.

Mr. Kreisky expressed satisfaction with the meeting, the first since relations began to cool. The talks also covered the Middle East situation, the United Arab Emirates news agency reported.

'ARAFAT STILL COMMITTED TO CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH

PM081637 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Dec 81 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[Excerpts] An expanded meeting of the joint leadership of the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian revolution was held at noon yesterday at the headquarters of the Central Political Council. The meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The participants discussed the situation in the south. 'Arafat reaffirmed "the Palestinian resistance's adherence to its decision in relation to the cease-fire and to refraining from carrying out operations from Lebanese territory in order not to give Israel a pretext for taking military action against the south."

The participants also assessed the security situation in the light of the steps taken and measures carried out under the supervision of the higher security committee and in coordination with the security bureau of the National Movement. They expressed satisfaction with "the atmosphere now prevailing in western Beirut," and called for the "extension of these measures to cover the north, south and Al-Biqa'."

Sources close to the meeting expect a tripartite Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese meeting to be held to discuss recent developments and consolidate the nationalist front to prevent any repercussions from developments in the Arab region.

AFP: PLO LEADER RECEIVING TREATMENT IN GRENOBLE

NC081218 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Grenoble, southeast France, 8 Dec (AFP) -- A leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), named by reliable PLO sources in Beirut as Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], one of the heads of "Fatah", is receiving hospital treatment here, it was learned today.

The PLO Paris bureau spokesman Ibrahim Sus denied an earlier report that the man was George Habash, leader of the extremist "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine" (PFLP).

The Beirut source said that Mr Salih suffered from a "disease of the lungs".

Mr Salih became a member last May of the Central Committee of Fatah, headed by Yasir 'Arafat.

Mr Sus told AFP that: "A PLO leader has the right to be given medical treatment where he wants and how he wants -- his private life is his own."

Grenoble hospital sources said that a PLO leader who arrived there Sunday was registered in the name of "Abdul Salah".

HAWATIMAH PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON ISSUES

For the press conference held by Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader Nayif Hawatimah during his CSSR visit, see pages D 4-5 of the Czechoslovakia section of the 8 December Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT. For his activities, see page D 7 of the same section, 4 December Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

BAHRAIN

SPAIN'S JUAN CARLOS HOLDS TALKS WITH AMIR

GF081136 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] An official round of talks was held at the guest palace in Al-Qudaybiyah at 1000 today between the Bahraini side, led by His Highness the Amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and the Spanish side, led by His Majesty King Juan Carlos.

On the Bahraini side, the talks were attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of interior and chief of the mission escorting the Spanish monarch; Ibrahim 'Abd al-Wahhab as-Sabbagh, Bahraini ambassador to Spain; and Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', chief of the prime minister's office.

On the Spanish side, the talks were attended by Ignacio Bayon, minister of industry and energy; Marquis Mondar, chief of royal protocol; Gabriel (Manjoko Delecia), Foreign Ministry under secretary; Emilio Barcia Garcia-Villamil, Spanish ambassador to Bahrain; Carlos Bostillo, chairman of the National Industries Organization, and other Spanish officials.

GULF NEWS AGENCY has learned that the two sides comprehensively reviewed relations between the two friendly countries and ways of strengthening them. They also discussed current Arab and international developments and issues of mutual interest. The two sides stressed the need for bilateral cooperation on all levels.

After the talks a ministerial meeting that included members of the two delegations was held. The continued discussion of topics discussed by the amir and the Spanish monarch on the development of political and economic cooperation between Bahrain and Spain.

Departs for Jordan

GF091027 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Manama, 9 Dec (WAKH) -- Spanish King Juan Carlos and his wife, Queen Sophia, today left Manama for Jordan after concluding a 3-day official visit to Bahrain.

The Spanish monarch was seen off by Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Heir Apparent and acting Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah and senior civilian and military officials.

During the visit, the Spanish monarch held talks with senior Bahraini officials dealing with bilateral relations, current developments in the Middle East and issues of mutual interest.

NEW TELEVISION CHANNEL MAKES DEBUT 1 DEC

GF021710 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 2 Dec 81 p 10

[Excerpts] Channel 55 last night plunged Bahrain into a new era of cosmopolitan entertainment, education and communication.

As viewers for the first time were able to watch an entire evening's English programming beamed out on high-quality and ultrapowerful UHF transmitters, the milestone signaled just a beginning to a new drive by government "to make Bahrain a nicer place to live."

That description comes from the man behind the launch, Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad.

Drawing on background work by the 200 staff already involved in Bahrain's electronic media, and working with equipment which has set the government back some Bd600,000, the new channel will be on the air 5 hours nightly -- longer on Fridays when it twins with Channel 4's afternoon features.

Its UHF signal is powerful enough to be received virtually throughout the Gulf when conditions are favorable, and programs will be almost entirely in English -- generally without subtitles.

According to the minister, they will attempt to strike a balance between the British and American approach to TV.

Eventually there will also be programs in other languages, such as French or the Indian languages, while gradually the local content of the programming will be stepped up with more news, interviews and magazine-type presentations.

The new channel will not intentionally feature Arabic, at least in its first 6 months, although any material chosen which is already subtitled will still go out with these subtitles. "What this ultimately means is that Channel 4 will become more Arabic in its presentation -- for instance, there will no longer be an English news bulletin, which will be moved to the early evening on Channel 55 instead," Mr al-Mu'ayyad explained.

"On its first night the new channel aired only eight commercials, against Channel 4's average 40," he said. "But eventually I see no reason why we cannot increase our overall advertising revenue by 40 percent at the end of the first year."

Like its predecessor, Channel 55 will be funded entirely by commercial revenue and government subsidy. "You can safely say there will never be any question of a viewers' licence fee, as we consider TV to be a commercial and community service," the minister said.

News will initially be read by four newscasters. "Although males applied, none of them made it beyond the auditions," the minister said.

The schedule of programs planned for the first few months represents what the minister sees as a compromise between the varied wants of such a cultural disparate group as Bahrain's expatriates and English-speaking Arabs.

It includes "quality" British series as Lilly, Civilisation, Duchess of Duke Street and Upstairs, Downstairs as well as a continuation of the Shakespeare presentations.

Candid Camera, the Avengers, the Muppets, the Jeffersons, Family at War, the Onedin Line and National Geographic documentaries take up much of the airtime, while there will be a full news bulletin each night at 1900 and a summary at the end of transmissions.

At the same time that Channel 55 was being launched as a fully fledged station, Bahrain's radio service was undergoing a quiet revolution.

A new station with five times the power of the present Arabic service is now on the air on 801 kilohertz, augmenting the 20-kilowatt transmission on 612 kilohertz.

The Arabic FM service is also soon due for a boost, and it is the intention to split the Arabic radio service whenever necessary into two separate programs, just as was done with television.

"This is all an indication of the new emphasis we are putting on the media," said the minister. "Just the figures alone bear out, our commitment for the new TV channel will cost us Bd300,000 a year to run, and Bahrain's Information Ministry budget is 15 times greater than it was just 7 years ago."

KUWAIT

CLARIFICATION OF CHEYSSON REMARKS SOUGHT

LD091052 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has said that the French ambassador to Kuwait was called to the ministry this morning to clarify the statements made by the French foreign minister, Claude Cheysson, during his recent visit to occupied Palestine. The source told KUNA that the under secretary for foreign affairs, Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rashid, asked the ambassador to provide the ministry with the official text of those statements. He added that this step by the Foreign Ministry is in harmony with the interest of Kuwait and its following up of the attitudes of friendly countries and their statements on the Middle East issue and the Palestine problem.

AS-SIYASAH CITES U.S. REPORT ON ARAB DIPLOMACY

GF081541 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 7 Dec 81 p 1

[Article by AS-SIYASAH's Arab affairs correspondent]

[Text] This is the stage of the return to secret diplomacy as much as it is the stage of subdued voices. Until May 1982, when Egypt will return to the Arab League following a certain crisis as a result of the question of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai, the best thing the Arab leaders can do is to return to secret diplomacy while trying to restrain the tones of their voices and their official statements.

This is the gist of a report sent by the U.S. Embassy in Beirut to the U.S. State Department in Washington analyzing the post-Fes situation in the Arab world.

According to information from Arab diplomatic circles in New York, part of the diplomacy of silence and subdued activity referred to in the report from the U.S. Embassy in Beirut may be the result of the advice of some Americans who have been politically active in the past, such as Henry Kissinger. It has been said that Kissinger and others have sent letters to this effect to some Arab figures advising them that the best thing the Arab countries can do after the Fes summit and until the next Arab summit is to resort to silence and active secret diplomacy, with the objective of establishing secret channels between Cairo and several Arab capitals.

Arab sources in New York add that the indirect contacts between the Egyptian leadership and several Arab countries have now gone a long way, and that the outcome of the Fes summit has given strong justification to activate these contacts on the basis of a now widely held hypothesis that says that Egypt's absence from the Arab League will continue to make the Arab League too weak to make decisive decisions on war or peace. The information from the Arab diplomatic circles in New York concludes that unless a major event occurs, such as an attempt to assassinate the Lebanese president prior to the presidential election -- which is being planned by some elements of the Zionist Mafia to inflame the situation in Lebanon prior to the presidential election -- the Arab situation will continue to be governed by secret diplomacy and quiet tones until the situation between Egypt and Israel crystallizes by April 1982, or perhaps earlier. Then, the question of Egypt's participation in the next Arab summit -- a summit which, according to the Moroccan monarch, is intended to make a decisive decision on war or peace -- will be decided.

With regard to the situation in Lebanon, there is information on a diabolical Israeli plan to inflame the political and military situation in that country, such as an attempt to assassinate the Lebanese president prior to the presidential election.

It appears that this information is being seriously discussed on various Arab levels. Thus, Arab diplomatic circles believe that an early revelation of this information is necessary to foil Israeli attempts to open a broad northern front.

SAUDI ARABIA

CHIEF OF STAFF MEETS WITH ROK COUNTERPART

GF051930 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Text] Saudi Chief of Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Salih al-Hammad received at his office today ROK Joint Chief of Staff Yun Song, who is currently visiting the Kingdom at the invitation of Lt Gen Muhammad Salih al-Hammad. During the meeting, attended by ROK Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Chang Ye-chun, issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The ROK joint chief of staff visited King Faysal Air Force College this morning. During the visit he saw the college departments and aviation and teaching sections.

Later on he visited King 'Abd al-'Aziz Military College. During this visit he listened to an extensive explanation on education and the activities of the college. He also toured the college departments and saw the King 'Abd al-Aziz military museum.

Lt Gen Yun Song arrived in Riyadh last night on a several-day visit to the Kingdom. On arrival he was received by Lt Gen Muhammad al-Hammad and a number of officials of the armed forces.

UAE

OFFICIAL ON TALKS WITH AUSTRIA'S KREISKY

GF081642 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Dec (WAKH) -- Following a meeting today between UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Austrian Chancellor Dr Bruno Kreisky, Burur ibn Muhammad, chief of the UAE President's office, made a statement.

He noted that during the meeting the UAE stressed its firm stand on the Palestinian issue. The Austrian chancellor also stressed his support for the Palestinian issue and Austria's role in supporting the issue in order to achieve a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Following the conclusion of extensive talks between the two delegations, Mr Khamis Butti ar-Rumaythi, the UAE ambassador in Vienna, indicated that bilateral relations and the possibility of expanding joint cooperation in the economic, commercial and health fields were discussed during the meeting. He added that the Austrian side discussed its views on joint cooperation and the possibility of Austrian companies participating in development projects in the UAE. The Austrian side also expressed Austria's willingness to accept UAE medical students at its universities and to provide them with training in Austrian hospitals and scientific institutions.

The two sides praised the strong relations between the UAE and Austria in particular and Austrian-Arab relations in general.

KREISKY, 'ARAFAT HOLD UNEXPECTED MEETING

AU091033 Vienna Domestic Service in German 0600 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] United Arab Emirates -- On the occasion of his visit to Abu Dhabi, this morning Chancellor Kreisky unexpectedly met with PLO chief, 'Arafat.

At this meeting the Saudi Arabian peace plan, as well as Austria's relations with the PLO was reportedly discussed. Yesterday Kreisky told journalists that the complete clarification of the assassination of Vienna City Councilman Nittel had eliminated the misunderstandings between the PLO and Austria. The chancellor said in this context that the new PLO representative and successor to Ghazi Husayn must be a man who is above suspicion. Kreisky was informed by high-ranking PLO representatives that the PLO feels just as responsible for his safety as for that of 'Arafat. Today Kreisky will conclude his tour of the Gulf states with a visit to the emirate of Qatar.

DECLINE IN CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION REPORTED

GF081634 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Dec (WAKH) -- Crude oil production in Abu Dhabi during the first half of 1981 was approximately 216 million barrels. This figure is 13.7 percent lower than production figures for the same period in 1980, when production reached 251 million barrels. This decline can be traced to the UAE's policy to reduce production to protect the oilfields.

In Dubayy, oil production during the first half of 1981 was about 65 million barrels. This has been reported in a report issued by the Central Bank. It points out that crude oil exports during the first 6 months of 1981 amounted to about 209 million barrels from Abu Dhabi and 62 million barrels from Dubayy.

Forty percent of the total oil production from Abu Dhabi and Dubayy was exported to Japan. It was followed by France, the Netherlands, the United States, the FRG, Spain and Great Britain.

YAR

PDRY PRESIDENT'S ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGE TO SALIH

JN072022 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received at his office in the presidential palace in Hajjah this afternoon Faruq Nasir ash-Shuwayli, member of the Politburo and chairman of the international security office in the southern part of the homeland who arrived in San'a' this morning.

Ash-Shuwayli conveyed a message to President Salih from his brother, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland.

A SABA' correspondent accompanying the president has learned that the message deals with following up the work of the unity committee.

The meeting was attended by [words indistinct]; Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i, the president's adviser for unity affairs; and Lt Col Ghalib [word indistinct], head of the central organ of national security.

MUBARAK BRIEFS NDP PARLIAMENTARY BODY 5 DEC

NC051459 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Text] This morning President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with the members of the parliamentary body of the National Democratic Party [NDP] in the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council. After the meeting, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said that President Mubarak reviewed the internal and external situations. Regarding the internal situation, the president affirmed the need for unity for the sake of Egypt's general interest. [He said] that his excellency had met with the leaders of all the parties to achieve this aim and to face the requirements of this period and that there are no differences over working for Egypt or over basic issues.

[The president also affirmed] that under the umbrella of faith in democracy there must be exchanges of views to reach the decision which serves the people's interest.

[Muhyi ad-Din further said that the president] referred to the basic issues -- namely. the economic issues, which he had submitted for popular discussion and for a study by experts on the basis that they are the one field where the opposition must give its opinion. [He stated] the discussions and study will continue until the end of December

[Muhyi ad-Din continued] On the internal situation. his excellency referred to the security issues, emphasizing that they have priority over other issues and that the consolidation of security is a basic and vital issue to ensure economic development and attract tourists as well as the money transfers from the Egyptians living abroad. [His excellency] explained that in the question of security, the officials are exerting every effort to resist terror to safeguard the sovereignty of the law and ensure peace of mind for every Egyptian.

[Muhyi ad-Din continued] His excellency then commented on the questions of deviation and corruption, emphasizing that there will be no leniency in this field and that anyone against whom a contravention is proved will be referred to the judiciary which will pass judgement on him.

On the party situation, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said that some cases will be referred to the General Secretariat and that a meeting will take place soon to define the party's course in the coming phase. He also said that the parliamentary body will hold another meeting to discuss party questions after a report on the development of the party has been drawn up.

[Muhyi ad-Din added] On the external situation, President Mubarak spoke about peace, emphasizing that the [Israeli] withdrawal will take place on schedule next April, that adherence to Camp David will continue, that there will be no change in Egypt's policy toward Israel and that Egypt will not enter into any side battles with any that attacks it.

[Muhyi ad-Din said] On the president's meeting with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in Aswan, he [the president] said that it is natural that such meetings should take place.

President Mubarak reviewed for the parliamentary body the outcome of his meeting with Numayri and the continuation of consultations between the two fraternal countries.

At the end of the meeting and according to a request by the members. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak declared that he will continue as leader of the NDP, that from this position he will work at protecting democracy in Egypt and guaranteeing the activities of the other parties and that from within his party and executive positions and on the basis of loyalty to the departed leader he will serve all the citizens. He emphasized his rejection of any attempt to liquidate personal accounts at the expense of the past, explaining the importance of proceeding toward the future with complete unity for the sake of Egypt.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 546

JN081721 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Communique No 546 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 8 December 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Like their great forefathers, the glorious sons of Iraq are fighting the forces of the rancorous and criminal Persian regime for the sake of right and dignity. Following is the outcome of our armed forces' military activities last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our valiant forces pounded enemy units in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, killing 125 and destroying 1 tank, 4 vehicles, 3 guns, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 2 observation posts.
B. An enemy concentration was sighted in front of our units in the Iranian area opposite Panjwin. Our forces pounded the concentration, forcing it to flee after sustaining 12 dead and 1 vehicle and 1 gun destroyed.
C. Four were killed and one observation post destroyed in the Abadan area.
D. Four were killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
E. One tank was destroyed in the Shush area.
F. Our valiant air force all day today raided enemy targets in the southern sector of the theater of operations, scoring direct and effective hits. Our aircraft returned safely to base.
G. Our forward units in the Khafajiyah region watched an enemy Phantom fighter plane explode in the air after being fired at by the confused enemy units which have lost their senses and balance as a result of the deadly blows dealt to them by our victorious units in their just battles.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 145 killed and 2 tanks, 5 vehicles, 4 guns, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 3 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 13 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle damaged.

IRAN WARNED AGAINST KILLING WAR PRISONERS

JN081803 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec 9INA) -- An official Iraqi spokesman has asserted that the Iranian authorities' killing of the Iraqi POW's means that the war has entered a new phase and that Iraq reserves its full right to reply to this heinous crime in the appropriate manner and at the suitable time.

The official spokesman has warned that this crime will not pass without exacting due punishment on the criminal Khoemyni regime.

In a statement to INA the spokesman said that the Iranian regime has once again stressed its disavowal of human principles and values and of international laws and norms. He added: It has been confirmed to us that several times these authorities have killed the Iraqi war prisoners and that they have committed this crime on a large scale during the recent battles in the southern sector on 29 November and the following days.

The official spokesman added that this information has been confirmed by various sources, particularly by a number of Iraqi soldiers who managed to flee and return.

The spokesman said that the statement made by Iranian regime President Khamene'i yesterday to the effect that his authorities buried 1,500 Iraqi soldiers confirms this heinous crime which is unprecedented in the history of war.

The Iraqi spokesman recalled that the hero Iraqi forces usually do not leave their martyrs in the battlefield. Also the number of our martyrs who fell in the recent battles is known as stipulated in the official communiques. He said that criminal Khamene'i's statement means that the Iranian authorities have killed in a cowardly and treacherous manner the Iraqi prisoners who were captured in the recent and previous battles. The spokesman said that Iraq, which has always abided and will continue to abide by its noble principles and by the international norms and laws, particularly the dealing with POW's, strongly denounces the abominable crime committed by the cowardly Iranian regime which is drowned with bestial crimes. The spokesman urged the Arab, Islamic and international public opinion to take the necessary measures against this regime, which has gone beyond all limits. The spokesman also called upon the International Red Cross to immediately take the necessary measures to safeguard the Iraqi POW's in Iran in accordance with international norms and laws.

ROMANIAN PREMIER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD 8 DEC

JN081857 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA) -- Romanian Prime Minister Ilie Verdet arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation on an official visit of serveral days to Iraq. The Romanian official and his delegation were received by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister.

In a statement to INA, Ilie Verdet expressed pleasure at visiting Iraq and at meeting with Taha Yasin Ramadan. He added that the talks will focus on important matters and on expanding relations of cooperation between Iraq and Romania in the various fields in the service of international peace and cooperation. He added: I am convinced that the visit will be crowned with success for the benefit of the two friendly countries.

The Romanian prime minister is accompanied by a high-level delegation headed by Ion Dinca, first deputy prime minister and head of the Romanian side to the joint Iraqi-Romanian committee. The delegation also includes a number of ministers and ranking officials.

BAGHDAD RADIO REPORTS CLASHES, CURFEW IN ALEPPO

JN081348 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Special units of the forces of the Syrian regime the day before yesterday surrounded the Al-Kallasah quarter of Aleppo and imposed a curfew on the area as part of a campaign waged by the regime of Hafiz al-Asad against the Syrian opposition forces.

Lebanese press reports in Beirut today said that Syrian opposition elements fired several salvos at a patrol of the Syrian regime during an attempt to impose a siege on the Al-Kallasah area. These reports said that the special units directed their artillery at the source of fire which cause the collapse of one of the buildings on its occupants. Casualties were estimated at about 20 dead or wounded. Reports add that clashes occured in parts of Aleppo as a result of the Syrian regime authorities directing artillery fire on the Al-Kallasah quarter with various types of weapons. Explosions were heard until yesterday morning. The reports point out that units of the defense squads headed by the Syrian president's brother have widely spread in Hamah where armed clashes have taken place between these units and opposition forces causing the death of an undetermined number of people. The reports say that opposition elements the day before yesterday set up an ambush on the Idlib-Latakia road for one of the regime's patrols, killing four.

AR-RA'Y ON CHEYSSON STATEMENT, EEC INITIATIVE

JN090918 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Dec 81 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Has the European Community Reneged?"]

[Text] French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson's statement, ruling out the possibility of a European initiative to help solve the Arab-Israeli conflict while the current French Government is in power, raises many questions.

First: Were the statements and intimations made earlier by European officials just for Arab consumption or a genuine effort, which was later aborted by the current French Government?

Second: Does Cheysson's statement mean that France is going back on the promises made by former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing during his famous tour of the Arab region? Could this also be said of France's position on the entire issue?

Third: Is it in France's interest to prevent the European community from contributing to a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, when France has vested interests in the Arab world?

Fourth: Is France's attitude in preventing a European initiative commensurate with current efforts to clear the way for peace and stability in the region, especially when the Camp David accords have failed to achieve a just and comprehensive solution?

Fifth: Does France's position on the European initiative mean Europe's withdrawal from the arena and the freezing of its role in the issue?

These and many other questions are raised by Cheysson's statement on the European initiative about which a great deal was said. This initiative was awaited for so long, but it now seems to have vanished into thin air following Cheysson's statement. Naturally, the answer to all these questions will depend on France's actual practices and the position which will be taken by the other members of the European community.

Whatever the result, Cheysson's statement will not change the established fact; namely, that Arab reality remains the real basic and influential factor in motivating any European role toward solving the Arab-Israeli conflict. The new French position on the European initiative should alert the Arabs to the fact that building an Arab reality to face existing challenges is essential for pushing the issue toward the desired just and comprehensive solution.

AD-DUSTUR DEPLORES CHEYSSON REMARKS IN ISRAEL

JN090844 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Dec 81 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "France and the Hard Option"]

[Excerpts] The visit of French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson to Tel Aviv, his talks with Israeli officials and the remarks he made following the visit confirm beyond any doubt that France's policy under President Mitterrand on Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict has changed radically, becoming totally different from the French stand that has been prevailing since 1967 until the arrival of the socialists to power a few months ago.

While welcoming Cheysson's remarks on the rights of the Palestinian people, we are surprised by his attempt to slip away from the avowed European stand by saying that Europe has gone beyond the Venice declaration and that there will be no European initiative on the Middle East so long as his president is in power. We are also surprised by Yitzhaq Shamir's claim that there is a joint Israeli-French understanding on the pivotal nature of the Camp David accords which the Arabs reject and whose failure to achieve peace in the region has been confirmed by events.

It might be said that the resumption of relations between France and Israel will give President Mitterrand the chance to play a positive and effective role in persuading his new friends in Tel Aviv to abandon the policy of aggression and expansion and bow down to international will to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. This, however, is in the realm of wishful thinking and at the moment, possible success is hard to assess.

The development of French-Israeli relations is an important event in the region. It is regrettable that the current state of Arab dispersal bars Arab leaders from channeling this development in the right course.

At any rate, passing judgment on this transformation in France's policy depends upon France's wish to invest it for peace or for the Israeli lust for expansion. Therefore, we have to wait and see.

TWO LOAN AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH SAUDI ARABIA

JN081755 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] A meeting has been held in the National Planning Council [NPC] between a Jordanian delegation headed by Finance Minister Salim Masa'idah and a Saudi delegation headed by Shaykh Muhammand Aba al-Khayl, Saudi finance and economy minister and chairman of the board of directors of the Saudi Development Fund. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by 'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of state for the prime minister's affairs; Walid Asfur, industry and trade minister; Dr Muhammad Sa'id an-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank; and Dr Hanna 'Awadah, NPC chairman. On the Saudi side, the meeting was attended by the Saudi ambassador in Amman; the vice chairman of the Saudi Development Fund; and the members of the delegation accompanying the Saudi minister.

Afterward two agreements were signed under which the Saudi Development Fund will provide Jordan with two loans. The first loan totals 61,250,000 Saudi riyals, which is $18 million, to be used in developing the industrial port in Aqaba. The second loan totals 100,500,000 Saudi riyals, which is $29.4 million, to be used to help finance the Amman water project.

The industrial port project in Aqaba aims at serving the phosphate and potash fertilizer projects and the industrial zone in Aqaba. The Amman water project aims at supplying the capital with approximately 45 million cubic meters of potable water a year. The project also covers the installation of pipelines, the constructions of a reservoir, five pumping stations, one water treatment station and the installation of double electric power lines. The overall cost of the project is 612 million Saudi riyals, approximately $180 million.

5 HIJACKERS OF LIBYAN AIRLINER DEPLANE IN BEIRUT

LD091142 Kuwait KUNA in English 1053 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Beirut, 9 Dec (KUNA) -- The five Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim hijackers of the Libyan Boeing-727 jetliner were replaced by 10 of their colleagues before taking off for Iran before dawn Wednesday, a ranking security official told KUNA.

The official said the three gunmen, who originally hijacked the Libyan plane while on a regular flight from Zurich to Tripoli Monday night, left the plane when it landed again at Beirut airport Tuesday night along with their two colleagues who joined them during the jetliners' first stopover at Beirut airport before dawn Tuesday.

The five, according to the official who refused to be identified were replaced by "10 others" from hundreds of Shi'ite militiamen deployed by the pro-Iranian movement Amal in the Beirut airport premises during the plane's stopover here Tuesday night. The five, the official said, "are still in Lebanon, but certainly not held by the authorities."

Amal, which originally denied involvement in the hijacking deployed its militiamen in the Beirut airport vicinity Tuesday evening to force the hijacked plane's landing despite official orders to prevent such a measure. Amal militiamen stormed the airport's control tower, the power station and removed fire brigade water tankers from the runways to facilitate the landing.

Amal Denies Connection

NC081217 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Who are the hijackers of the Libyan plane, and why are they carrying out this operation? There are three hijackers. They have said that they are members of an organization calling itself the Mujahadin of Imam as-Sadr. They distributed a statement at Beirut airport concerning their demands, the most important of which were that Imam as-Sadr should be released and that the United Nations should address a message to the leader of the Amal Movement, lawyer Nabih Birri, saying that it has assumed responsibility for Imam as-Sadr's case.

Birri has told REUTER news agency by telephone that the Amal Movement is not connected with the hijackers. He also refused to go to the airport when the plane landed there.

Hijacker Statement

NC082121 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Dear listeners: We have just received the special statement which the leader of the hijackers of the Libyan plane has made to the Voice of Lebanon correspondent and which we promised to broadcast immediately. Here is a recording of the statement by the leader of the group whose name is Hamzah:

[Begin recording] Certainly, we want to raise our voice anew in the world to say that we have not forgotten our leader, who is detained in Libya, and that no lapse of time will make us forget our leader. No matter how long they detain him, we shall rescue the leader imam from inside his [word indistinct] whatever the cost. [passage indistinct]

I wish my voice could reach the south where Musa as-Sadr's rifle is. I believe it will not reach there, but the press is honest and it will disseminate it throughout the world because we are proceeding along the line of the leader imam [words indistinct]. We are proceeding along the line, on the road to Jerusalem, and our operation which we have [words indistinct] the road to Jerusalem.

[Passage indistinct] Everybody must understand that Musa as-Sadr is the only leader of these deprived multitudes [words indistinct]. Imam Musa as-Sadr does not accept being monopolized by the Amal Movement. Imam Musa as-Sadr is for all the deprived in the world. Imam Musa as-Sadr is for all believers and for all free men in the world. We refuse to have Musa as-Sadr measured by the size of the Amal Movement. Imam Musa as-Sadr is for the world and for all the downtrodden. [end recording]

As you have heard, dear listeners, the leader of the hijacking group, Hamzah, has explained to the Voice of Lebanon the aim of the hijacking operation -- the hijacking of the plane and the passengers. The leader of the plane [as heard] did not clarify where the plane is going or whether it will stay in Beirut airport. He said that the aim of his and his group's hijacking operation is to bring to everyone's attention the kidnapping of Imam Musa as-Sadr and to call on the world to have him released.

AN-NAHAR COMMENTARY ON U.S.-ISRAELI AGREEMENT

PM041543 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 2 Dec 81 p 1

[Michel Abu Jawdah editorial: "After 30 Years"]

[Excerpts] Whatever is said about the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement and Europe's participation in the Sinai multinational force, the conclusion to be drawn from all this is that Egypt and Israel are now part of the NATO defense belt and have replaced Iraq and Iran, but more to the west, in forming a new type of Baghdad Pact against what the West calls the Soviet threat. The United States and the European and other Western states can say that the vacuum has been filled.

Egypt's exit from the war with Israel is in fact an Egyptian exit from the conflict with the United States and Western Europe in general. In practical terms it is tantamount to an Arab exit from the confrontation with the West. This is why Egypt has become a U.S. military "base" against the Soviet Union and this is why Israel has been turned into a NATO state east of the Mediterranean. This has been achieved through Israel's strategic pact with the United States and the European military presence in Sinai. This has been the aim of the United States since the 1952 July revolution.

It has taken the United States 30 years to achieve this objective but it has now been achieved, according to U.S. calculations. With Egypt's exclusion from the confrontation and fron the ring of Arabism, the United States, Europe and the West in general have become more daring. NATO has been expanded to include Israel directly, with Egypt's approval. The Egyptian approval was followed by Sudanese, Somali and Omani approval, and with all this stands the Rapid Deployment Force -- "the protective shield" of the oilfields. As reflected in its daring strategic alliance with Israel, the United States is now behaving as if it fears neither the Arabs of war nor the Arabs of peace and as if it wants to categorize the Arabs. Those who are opposed to what is happening would go to the Soviet Union and the rest would go along with the United States directly or indirectly. The Fes conference has probably helped in this categorization.

By getting Egypt out of the confrontation and by exposing the Arab failure in Fes, the United States, Israel and Western Europe have fulfilled the main common objective, namely cancellation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and, consequently the Arab-West conflict or, to be specific, into an American-Soviet conflict in which the Arabs and Israel play the role of allies not enemies.

PROGRESSIVE FRONT CENTRAL COMMAND HOLDS MEETING

JN081519 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Damascus, 8 Dec (SANA) -- The Central Command of the Progressive National Front held a meeting at noon today under the front's deputy chairman, Mahmud al-Ayyubi. The command reviewed the current Arab situation since the postponement of the Arab summit conference in Fes. The command also reviewed during a meeting lasting 3 and 1/4 hours contacts between Syria and some Arab countries.

The Central Command stressed the need for strengthening Syria's position under President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting imperialist designs and in defending the Arab nation's rights and interests.

At the outset of the meeting, Al-Ayyubi welcomed the front's new members, Mahmud az-Zu'bi and Muharram Tayyarah.

ATH-THAWRAH ON U.S. MIDDLE EAST DESIGNS

JN081012 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Dec 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary on building intrinsic Arab power as an urgent need to confront challenges, ATH-THAWRAH says: Syria has always warned that the United States is implementing Israeli policy in the Arab region and establishing a comprehensive strategic policy toward the Arab homeland on the basis of U.S.-Israeli interests.

The United States views the region from an Israeli perspective, making Washington less serious about its future with the Arabs and U.S. interests in the Arab homeland. This fact has been categorically confirmed by the U.S. plot to divide and weaken Arab ranks, to invade the region politically with the Camp David accords. These plots and the aggressive alliance are merely a prelude to a military invasion as demonstrated currently by the flow of U.S. forces, equipment and arms into the region, the establishment of the Rapid Deployment Forces and the setting up of a U.S. command in the Middle East under a comprehensive strategy, whose most aggressive and serious result has been the strategic alliance with the Zionist enemy.

ATH-THAWRAH explains that due to this serious qualitative development in U.S. policy, the Arabs must acknowledge the serious danger facing them concerning their cause, struggle, present, future existence and resources. The Arabs should intensify real efforts toward confronting this danger. The path is clear -- to build an intrinsic Arab power and establish strategic balance with the Zionist enemy.

Thus, the Arabs will be able to defend their existence, wrest back the land and usurped rights and provide the potentials that can help achieve a just peace, the conditions of which were approved and defined by the international community and which the United States and Israel are trying to destroy.

The paper asserts that Syria is trying with all means in its power to establish a strategic balance. It is also exerting true, sincere and intensified efforts to build an intrinsic Arab power and to mobilize all available energies and potentials in the battle for the Pan-Arab destiny. Syria knows full well that the mission is hard and difficult, but it is also the soundest way to confront the challenges and to defend the Pan-Arab cause. Otherwise, the entire Arab future will be exposed to grave dangers embodied in the Zionist and imperialist onslaught and its escalation into a more serious stage marked by the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, the aim of which is to impose imperialist hegemony over the Arab region by military power and direct military invasion.

AL-BA'TH VIEWS EUROPEAN MIDDLE EAST POLICY

JN081240 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Damascus, 8 Dec (SANA) -- In a commentary today, AL-BA'TH says: Europe has finally decided to put an end to the vague policy that has long characterized its stands on several international issues in general and the Palestinian issue in particular.

AL-BA'TH adds: Despite our perception of the nature of any European decision concerning the Palestinian issue and its stand on the Arab-Zionist conflict and despite our knowledge that it remains impotent due to a lack of independence, this decision is surrounded by ambiguities and full of elastic expressions, perhaps so that Europe will appear to be a neutral power or a power concerned about maintaining a balance on the international stage or in the Middle East.

The newpaper says: There are many proofs to attest to these stands, the most recent being the European stand on the Camp David process and some of its offshoots, such as the situation in Lebanon and the Sinai force.

The newspaper adds: Europe's emergence from this policy of vagueness is evident by the French-Israeli flirtation which is paving the way for the visit of the first European leader to the Zionist entity since its establishment.

AL-BA'TH asserts that this shift in the European stand is considered first and foremost a return to the U.S. policy of the 1950's.

The U.S. administration is adopting a return to direct aggression through its so-called full partner.

AL-BA'TH wonders: In view of this attitude, will the Arabs move toward a firm reply? It is an urgent mission aimed primarily at those Arab parliamentarians who have taken long strides in their relations with European parliaments. They should shoulder their pan-Arab missions in the international arena.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES CABLES FROM JORDAN, CYPRUS

JN081241 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad is still receiving cables of condolence condemning the heinous crime perpetrated by the Muslim Brotherhood gang against the sons of our country.

Cables were received from: Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou; the Ba'th Party Regional Command in Jordan; 'Arabi 'Awwad, member of the Jordanian Communist Party Political Bureau and official in charge of the Palestinian communist organization in Lebanon.

Another joint cable was received from: The Ba'th Party in Jordan, the Democratic Front in Jordan, the PFLP and the Jordanian Communist Party-Leninist Cadre.

HA'ARETZ: JORDAN PREPARING PEACE INITIATIVE

TA090837 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Dec 81 p 2

[Report by Yosi Melman]

[Text] London, 8 Dec -- Jordan is preparing to declare a new peace program to be based on UN Resolution 242. The HA'ARETZ correspondent learned this from Arab sources in London. King Husayn himself hinted at this in a lecture he gave recently at an international seminar on the "Future of Peace in the Middle East" given by a London center for Arab research.

In the same lecture, the Jordanian king said: "We are witnessing the danger of a new explosion in the area -- the danger of general war. The only chance of preventing war is a new peace program." In his later remarks King Husayn hinted at his intention of once more putting forward the section in UN Resolution 242 that calls for an Israeli withdrawal from the conquered territories and recognition of the right of all the countries in the area to exist in peace and in recognized borders.

According to the sources, Husayn's hope that the Reagan administration will declare a new political initiative in the Middle East was dashed and he reached the conclusion that the only chance of a solution to the area's problems would be a revival of Resolution 242. This conclusion was reinforced after the Fes summit conference failed to adopt Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Fahd's plan.

ANTISTRATEGIC PACT MOVEMENT ESTABLISHED

TA071532 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1420 GMT 7 Dec 81

["Statement by MAPAM spokesman"]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 7 Dec -- A nonpartisan citizens movement has recently been established to oppose the Israeli-U.S. strategic cooperation. The movement regards the presentation of the Soviet Union as Israel's foremost enemy as an opening for a military showdown between the IDF and the Red Army throughout the Middle East, and it warns against the ensuing dangers. The movement set out to constitute an umbrella organization for all elements and citizens prepared to take action against the signing of any binding military agreement with the United States, if its primary goal is to fight Soviet expansionism.

The movement believes that the strategic cooperation proposed by the prime minister and the defense minister, and agreed upon and signed in the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation severely harms Israel's security and its military and political freedom of action. The movement concurs with the prime minister in maintaining that strategic cooperation is not necessary for the defense of our country's borders and deduces from this that anti-Soviet fighting in the region contradicts our chief national goal.

Any Israeli citizen, regardless of political belief, creed or social class can join the movement freely and work for the attainment of this goal, whether privately or within political or social groups. The movement will launch a wide-scale and multifaceted information campaign to bring to the public's attention the great and specific dangers inherent in strategic cooperation.

The movement demands that the Knesset abolish the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation. The movement will soon hold a news conference to announce its establishment and to explain its objectives and operation.

SHAMIR HAILS OUTCOME OF CHEYSSON VISIT

TA081545 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] The 28-hour visit to Israel by French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson has ended. Cheysson's visit has opened a new page in Israeli-French relations, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at a departure news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport. Shamir has been invited for an official visit to France in the near future and he has accepted the invitation. Here is our political correspondent, Gad Becker, from Ben-Gurion Airport:

Our hope that the visit by my counterpart, Mr Cheysson, will open a new era in relations between Israel and France has come true, Shamir said at the opening of the news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport. Shamir stressed the remarks by his counterpart about the nonexistence of the European initiative.

[Begin Shamir recording] We have a great number of identical views and I am happy to mention in particular the joint, basic view on the Camp David agreements. We have received with satisfaction the repeated announcements by our guest that there will be no more European initiatives into the affairs of the area. Our evaluations were not identical on certain points, but even when we differed in our views, we did so with complete understanding. It appears to me that it would be correct to say that the word "misunderstanding" has disappeared from our common vocabulary. [end recording]

[Becker] The French minister stressed that the unusual phenomenon of a cessation of contacts and exchanges of views between the two countries would not return. Shamir has already been invited to Paris for a visit in the near future. During today's deliberations a tightening of cooperation in the fields of economics, commerce and culture was agreed upon. Shamir said, in reply to a question, that nuclear cooperation between France and Iraq had also been raised in the talks and that he had learned that at present there is no longer any activity in this field. That is all from Ben-Gurion Airport.

Joint Communique

TA081729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Dec 81

["Text of joint Israeli-French communique, dated 8 December, at end of French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson's visit to Israel; read by Israeli Ambassador to France Me'ir Rosenner]

[Text] Following a series of talks between French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, which were held on 7 and 8 December, better mutual understanding was reached on Middle Eastern issues concerning both countries. These talks enabled lengthy exchanges of opinion in a warm, friendly and open atmosphere. Both ministers agreed to meet each other frequently in order to jointly check developments on the situation in the region.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has been invited to pay an official visit to France soon and he has accepted this invitation. Both sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation between France and Israel in the economic and cultural spheres as well as to strengthen ties between Israel and Europe. To this end a joint French-Israeli economic committee will convene soon.

Cheysson Departs

TA081617 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1559 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] A few minutes ago French Minister for External Relations Claude Cheysson departed Israel after a visit of 28 hours.

DETAILS ON CHEYSSON-SHAMIR NEWS CONFERENCE

TA081802 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Dec 81

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson this evening ended a quick visit of 28 hours in Israel. In the course of his visit he conducted various working meeting with his counterpart, Yitzhaq Shamir, and other officials. This afternoon, Cheysson and Shamir held a joint news conference to sum up their talks. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, has sent us this report from Ben-Gurion Airport.

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] Cheysson's visit opened a new era in Israeli-French relations -- this is the description Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir chose to use to sum up his talks with his French counterpart. Cheysson confirmed recent evaluations made after the government change in France. Francois Mitterrand's administration will strive to renew the dialogue with Israel while expressing willingness to cooperate on many and diverse issues.

France has not changed its mind on the Palestinian issue. French policymakers will in the future, too, continue to speak in favor of self-determination for the Palestinian people. The French minister phrased it this way:

The Israeli and French Governments want to make peace in the area through negotiations rather than through war. Both governments believe that within the peace process in the area a solution should be found to the problem of the Palestinian people. We do not share the same analysis [nituah] about the way to solve the problem of the Palestinian people. In addition to Camp David, it may be necessary to develop other ways to solve the problem.

Shamir added: In question is the problem of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip and the way to solve this problem has been specifically determined in Camp David.

Another sensitive topic which was raised in the talks today referred to France's ties with Iraq and the aid extended to Iraq in the sphere of nuclear development.

[Shamir] We spoke about the issue in this meeting and we also spoke about it when we met at the UN in New York in September. I do not think there is anything more to add. I can only say that nothing is happening at present on this issue.

[Schiffer] France is at present not aiding Iraq on the nuclear issue. The first visit by a French minister to Israel in 5 years ended with the hope that indeed something may happen in relations between the two countries. This something contains nothing tangible as of yet. This process will reach its climax in February 1982 when French President Francois Mitterrand arrives here. [End recording]

CHEYSSON ON EUROPEAN INITIATIVES; ARENS COMMENTS

TA081858 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The visit of French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson is over. It ended this evening with declarations of the beginning of a new era and great understanding between France and Israel. More on the story from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Begin Cheysson recording] What I have said is nothing new. [not further explained] It was stated by the President of the French Republic in the European Council in Luxembourg last July. We do not object to further declarations. We do not object to statements of principles. We do not object to common positions being taken by the 10. Very recently, the 10 adopted a declaration precisely about the multinational force in the Sinai. We have no objection to common positions, but we say that initiatives, plans, should be proposed and discussed between those directly concerned, and not by countries like the European countries, which have an interest, but no direct involvement in the settlement. [end recording]

Our reporter adds that Foreign Minister Cheysson denied reports of any pending arms deals between Israel and France. He told reporters that the question had not come up during his discussions here.

Before leaving, Claude Cheysson had a luncheon meeting with the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman, Moshe Arens. Afterwards, reporter Leslie Susser asked Arens if he, too, saw a return to the golden age of Franco-Israeli relations in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

[Begin recording] [Arens] I don't think that we are about to return to that period. Generally in history things never return to where they were before and I think it's probably a little too early and presumptuous to talk about a new era in Israeli-French relationships, but we are hearing some signals that sound a little more pleasant to our ears and I think it's probably correct to say that there's a change in direction in French policy towards Israel and a change in direction for the better and I think that we can locate the point of origin of the change in direction with the election of Mitterrand to the presidency of France.

[Susser] Cheysson says that as long as Mitterrand remains president, there will be no European initiative. Is France in a position to guarantee something like this?

[Arens] Well, I think that if the French set their minds to that, then I think that they can make good on it. It's difficult to see that there would be any kind of European initiatives, say, on the Middle East, that would get off the ground if the French oppose it and oppose it emphatically.

[Susser] Would it be possible to take it a step further and see France, perhaps, leading Europe away from its pro-Arab positions to a position which is more supportive of Israel?

[Arens] Well, I think it's possible and certainly we hope that this is going to happen. I think it would be correct to say that some of the positions taken by the European countries, that were not friendly to Israel, and that were nonsupportive of Israel's positions in the past were taken, in many cases, under the initiative of the French, so I think the opposite may very well be true in the future, that if the French do take initiatives in order to formalize or formulate a policy position on the part of the European powers, it will be friendly to Israel and they may very well be able to bring it off. [end recording]

POST WELCOMES SUCCESS OF CHEYSSON'S VISIT

TA090610 Jerusalem POST in English 9 Dec 81 p 10

[Editorial: "Entente Cordiale"]

[Text] The tone of French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson's public pronouncements during his brief but busy visit here was so novel to Israeli ears that it still echoes pleasantly the morning after his departure.

No more the hectoring "we know better" attitude of the Giscard years (and indeed of the De Gaulle and Pompidou period too), but rather a frank acknowledgement of disagreement on some issues, a mutual desire to listen but not to lecture, and an apparently sincere attempt to improve bilateral relations between the two countries which were once fast friends.

Mr Cheysson struck the chord that was to permeate his visit as soon as he touched down on Monday. The previous trip to Israel by a French foreign minister, he noted, had been five years ago: "Is that a normal state of affairs...?"

Clearly it was not, and clearly too Israel had not been to blame for the long political dialogue. Mr Cheysson was plainly pointing an accusing finger at the previous French Government.

His message became even clearer -- and even more welcome to Israel -- when he baldly asserted that so long as the present French Government was in power there would be no more European "initiatives" on the Middle East. The European community's "Venice declaration" of June 1980 was no longer regarded -- in Paris at least -- as seriously viable European policy, Mr Cheysson indicated in an Israeli radio interview.

Not that he concealed or downplayed France's, and indeed all of Europe's continued conviction that a peaceful settlement for this region must include a sovereign homeland for the Palestinians. He was entirely frank in that regard too. What has changed is not the French outlook on the substance of the Israeli-Palestinian issue, but the view in Paris that Israel can be dictated to by the Europeans and should be constantly browbeaten and almost ostracized as a "softening-up" for an eventual imposed settlement.

The change in France is sufficient, as Mr Cheysson hinted, to stymie future concerted EC efforts to lay down the law to Israel. Perhaps it is not in itself sufficient to say another key European states to adopt a sensible live-and-let-live approach in their relations with Israel. But it ought to induce some rethinking on the part of Lord Carrington in London, that most energetic advocate of EC dictation-diplomacy in this region.

The success of the Cheysson visit, and the prospect of improved ties with France to be sealed by President Mitterrand's visit here in February, redounds especially to the credit of the patient, mild-mannered foreign minister, Mr Yitzhaq Shamir. He, unlike others, goes about his efforts to improve Israel's international connections with a sense of quiet and modest perseverance.

On a deeper level, the upswing in ties with France is a fruit -- belated, but still a direct outgrowth -- of the Camp David accord and the peace treaty with Egypt. The new government in Paris, unencumbered by the dogmatic deadwood of the past decade of French policy, has been able to look at Israel and the Middle East conflict with fresh eyes and appraise anew the meaning and promise of the peace process.

SHARON: TERRORISM IN NORTH UNACCEPTABLE

TA081710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the Knesset today that in the future we will not accept terrorist actions against settlements in northern Israel or another war of attrition. If fire is opened, we will act to prevent strikes at the northern settlements and we will conduct the campaign in a different way from the past.

Sharon said the defense establishment was doing all it could concerning shelters and defense measures in the settlements. The defense minister was replying to a motion by MK Ya'aqov Tzur.

GAZA STRIKE CONTINUES, MAYOR COMMENTS

TA081909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] In Gaza, the general strike continues with no immediate end in sight. The local tradesmen and medical personnel are formally protesting about the imposition of value added tax and the demonstrations also marks the introduction of Civilian Administration in Gaza, like that in Judaea and Samaria. Israel sees the introduction of the Civilian Administration as a first step to an autonomy for the local citizens according to the Camp David agreements, but Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa told reporter Arye Gus that the local population does not trust Israeli intentions:

[Begin Ash-Shawwa recording] We reject this, we reject Israeli occupation. We reject to be enslaved by Israel. We reject to be enslaved by anybody. We are free people. God has created us as free people, the same as he has created the rest of the world. We insist on our right to self-determination. We insist on having our own state built on our very land of our fathers and forefathers. This is the situation in Gaza Strip now, bur please don't understand, please don't try to interpret it as a revolt against the VAT. It doesn;t matter whether the VAT is 100 or 1 million. People feel that any money they possess, any land they possess here, any houses they possess, is ultimately going to be stripped from them by the Israelis and Israel is going to take it and throw these people out. This is the general feeling that is all over the strip. [end recording]

Strike to Continue

TA081953 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Gaza municipal government, Chamber of Commerce and trade union representatives held a meeting this evening at which they decided to continue the strike in the city for another 2 days. Our correspondent, Rafiq Halibi, has learned that the security forces have welded shut 170 shops in the last 2 days. A clothing shop was destroyed by a fire caused by the welding of the IDF soldiers.

Several dozen businessmen are currently demonstrating at the Chamber of Commerce building. Many businessmen have been summoned to the civilian administration building and were ordered to open their shops tomorrow. The head of the Civilian Administration, Brig Gen Yosef Lunz, asked the Gaza mayor to calm tempers, otherwise stricter measures against the inhabitants would be adopted.

There was also a commercial strike in Khan Yunus and other towns in the Gaza Strip. The security forces forced the shop owners to open their businesses.

There were student riots in Nabulus and Ramallah today in solidarity with the strike in the Gaza Strip. In two cases, the security forces used tear gas to disperse demonstrations. The Nabulus municipal government was on strike today and it issued posters expressing solidarity with Gaza.

Curfew in Rafah

TA090723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The youth (Muhammad an-Nahlah), who was killed during the dispersal of a demonstration in Rafah, was buried during the night. Attending the funeral were members of the family and several other persons. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a curfew was imposed this morning in the town of Rafah following disruptions or order.

There were also disruptions of order in other places in the Gaza district. Among other incidents, youths set fire to tires in Khan Yunus; a roadblock of stones was set up at Bayt Hanun, in the northern Gaza Strip; and in the Jabalyah refugee camp youths threw stones at Israeli vehicles. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that today, too, the Gaza district is closed to all nonresidents.

Disturbances Continue

TA090833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Disruptions of order continued today in Judaea and Samaria. In Nabulus and Ad-Duhayshah stones were thrown at IDF vehicles, breaking windshields. No one was hurt. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that in Ramallah there were demonstrations by pupils, and IDF troops entered a schoolyard in order to remove Palestinian flags hoisted by the pupils.

CABINET POSITION ON SHARON AFRICA TRIP

TA071150 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Dec 81 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Messrs. Begin, Sharon, Shamir and Ehrlich during the last few days have held consultations on the results of the defense minister's trip to Africa. During these consultations a trend emerged -- not to submit for government ratification the contracts obtained by Mr Sharon during his visit. The background for this is the defense minister's claim that the disclosure of details of the agreements would lead to their being leaked and damage the accords he obtained during his trip.

Sharon's position also was remarked on in his absence from the last two Cabinet meetings -- a decision that provoked criticism by other ministers. He was absent from Thursday's Cabinet meeting since he was late and the meeting was brief. And he did not participate in yesterday's government meeting on the pretext that he was reviewing a military exercise.

Consequently, the government has not yet received any report on his strategic talks in Washington nor on his trip to Africa, which it had no prior knowledge of. The ministers received information on these subjects from media reports.

The obscurity prevailing in the government with regard to Mr Sharon's talks in the United States and Africa causes various government circles to allege that the defense minister had in fact really achieved nothing during his trip to Africa, that the cooperation was agreed upon previously and was only marginally affected by his visit, and that there was no direct link between the signing of the strategic memorandum with the United States and the practical agreements he reached in Washington in the fields of development, intelligence, trade and Israeli-American cooperation in Africa. Moreover, there are reports that there was opposition to Sharon's trip to Africa in the Foreign Ministry, where it was contended that a delegation of officials would have sufficed to achieve the agreements brought back by the minister.

It was learned that although Foreign Ministry officials objected to Mr Sharon's intention to visit Africa, the foreign minister, who had had a talk with the defense minister on this subject, accepted his stand and did not express any objections to his trip. It was reported, moreover, that although Mr Sharon's trip to Africa was not approved by the Cabinet, nor were they informed of it, the visit did have the approval of the prime minister and the foreign minister. Mr Sharon's departure was preceded by a preparatory delegation, which like Sharon's team, included a representative of the Foreign Ministry.

It was also learned that Sharon prepared joint frameworks of deliberation for the Defense Ministry and the Foreign Ministry on sensitive subjects, such as special ties, the situation in south Lebanon, etc.

Sharon brought back from Africa signed contracts for various transactions in four countries, thus finalizing past contacts by Foreign Ministry officials, and new development and investment plans. According to reports published at the end of last week on behalf of sources in Jerusalem, these agreements became possible as a result of Israel's new standing in Africa because of its signature on the memorandum of strategic cooperation with the United States.

TV REPORTS UN CALL FOR END TO CANAL PROJECT

TA072000 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Here is a report from the United Nations: The special UN Assembly Political Committee today called on Israel to stop all preparations for the establishment of the intersea canal. In the resolution, which was approved by 114 votes to 2 -- Israel and the United States -- the countries call on other countries to refrain from giving Israel aid.

The resolution, which was approved at the initiative of Arab countries, calls on the UN Security Council to discuss the problem in order to take steps to prevent the digging of the canal, claiming that Israel, as a conquering country, is not entitled to change the physical nature of the territory it is holding.

Israel, during the course of the debate, claimed that the plan would be beneficial to the entire area and especially to Jordan and would not change the political status of the Gaza strip.

Energy Minister on Canal

TA090635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Israel will not make any changes in or reconsider its plans for digging the sea-to-sea canal. This was the reaction of the energy minister to the nearly unanimous condemnation passed by the UN's Political Committee against Israel and its planned canal between the Mediterranean and Dead seas. This institution is also threatening Israel with sanctions if it implements its plans. In a conversation with our correspondent Gadi Sukenik, Minister Yitzhaq Berman said that Israel will not take this condemnation into account, as it did not take past UN condemnations into consideration.

[Begin Berman recording] Most of the resolutions are condemnations of Israel. For 30 years we have lived with these condemnations. The more so since behind these condemnations is a not so respectable group, a group that includes representatives of that well-known pursuer of peace Al-Qadhdhafi, the saintly Khomeyni, the former Cambodian Prime Minister Pol Pot -- about whom there is an argument as to whether he murdered only 2 million of his people of 3 million -- and there is also the fascist dictator of Pakistan. It is this bunch which stands behind these resolutions, and it is hard to say that we should take such resolutions seriously. In fact, these resolutions have destroyed the UN's moral standing more than they hurt Israel.

But irrespective of the condemnations, we are always ready to sit with Jordan or anyone who has complaints -- particularly Jordan -- to coordinate matters with them and to act so that both of us will benefit. But even without such coordination, we are planning the canal in such a way that it will not harm Jordan. [end recording]

FINANCE MINISTER WAS IN PARIS TO SEE ROTHSCHILD

TA071215 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Finance Ministry Director General Prof 'Ezra Sadan confirmed last night that during Finance Minister Yoram Aridor's visit to Paris, the two met with Baron Rothschild on a certain business deal.

Professor Sadan refused to disclose whether this was over a loan, some kind of a joint project or any other issue. It has been learned that Professor Sadan, who returned last week from talks with the secretary of defense in the United States, was to visit also in Switzerland, but was summoned to Paris, where the finance minister was staying. Yesterday and this morning it was impossible to get a reaction from Minister Aridor about reports pertaining to his secret trip to Europe.

CLANDESTINE COMMUNIST PARTY ESTABLISHED IN GAZA

TA081214 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] A communist-Palestinian party has been clandestinely established in Gaza. This was done without Soviet consent. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that this party is protesting the increasingly closer ties between the Soviet Union and Jordan at the expense of the interests of Syria and the Palestinian organizations belonging to the rejectionist front. The people who established the party are close to George Habash.

Our correspondent notes that the Soviet Union had not permitted the establishment of a communist-Palestinian party, and had instructed the communists in the territories to be affiliated with the Jordanian Communist Party and to coordinate their activity with the Israeli RAKAH.

POST POLL SHOWS SHARON'S POPULARITY INCREASING

TA080905 Jerusalem POST in English 8 Dec 81 pp 1, 2

[Report by political reporter Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv -- Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon's meteoric rise in popularity, making him even more popular in his job than Premier Menahem Begin is in his, was the most striking change in this month's Jerusalem POST poll. Both of them left their Labour rivals trailing far behind.

And while Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is steadily picking up public support, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor seems to be the only top Likud man on the decline, with nearly half the public unable to name a man they liked for the treasury.

The above emerged from the poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Applied Research Centre among a representative sample of 1,275 adults at the end of last month.

Question -- Who is best suited to be defence minister?

	Nov	Sept	July	June
Ari'el Sharon	49.6	47.0	39.5	29.7
'Ezer Weizman	9.6	8.9	5.8	10.4
Bar-Lev	4.9	6.1	8.8	10.5
Yitzhaq Rabin	4.6	9.0	14.2	7.8
Mordekhay Gur	2.6	2.2	1.0	2.0
Others	3.4	4.6	5.4	8.0
Undecided	25.3	18.9	22.9	29.0

Centre Director Dr Sara Shemer noted that Sharon's soaring popularity gave him a 10-to-1 advantage over both the nearest Labour contenders, Bar-Lev and Rabin. He enjoyed the support of the Likud constituency of the younger voters and the Sephardi working class, while Weizman drew more backing from higher socio-economic groups.

Question -- Who is best suited to be prime minister?

	Nov	Sept	July	June
Menahem Begin	45.1	46.4	45.3	43.7
Yitzhaq Rabin	11.3	14.8	15.0	13.9
Shim'on Peres	7.9	9.2	10.4	13.2
Yitzhaq Navon	6.7	10.9	9.8	--
"Ezer Weizman	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.5
Others	2.7	4.9	3.6	4.8
Undecided	25.0	12.4	14.8	23.9

Shemer noted the constancy of support for Begin among his traditional constituency at the lower end of the social-economic ladder and among the young. She also pointed out that among Labour voters, 30 per cent prefer Peres, 30 per cent want Rabin, and 9 per cent pick Navon as premier, with 5 per cent opting for Begin.

Question -- Who is best suited to be foreign minister?

	Nov	Sept	July	June
Yitzhaq Shamir	31.2	28.0	27.3	27.0
Abba Eban	19.1	26.0	23.3	23.6
Yitzhaq Rabin	2.6	2.9	1.1	1.0
'Ezer Weizman	2.1	1.5	0.6	--
Hayim Herzog	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.2
Moshe Arens	1.2	--	--	--
Others	5.4	4.9	5.6	4.3
Undecided	36.9	25.3	33.4	36.0

The pollster noted the growing acceptance of Shamir as foreign minister and the decline of Eban in the poll. This was the only case where the gap between the Likud and Labour was as low as 2 to 1.

Question -- Who is best suited to be finance minister?

	Nov	Sept	July	June
Yoram Aridor	30.4	35.0	35.9	33.1
Yiga'el Hurvitz	6.5	7.8	4.9	6.0
Hayim Ben-Shahar	5.8	11.6	16.8	17.0
Ya'aqov Levinson	3.5	5.9	3.7	2.4
Gad Ya'aqobi	1.6	--	--	--
Others	4.2	4.7	4.3	3.9
Undecided	48.2	35.0	34.3	37.6

TV, RADIO BROADCAST WORK IN ARABIC REVIEWED

TA071128 Jerusalem POST in English 7 Dec 81 p 3

[Report by Benny Morris]

[Text] Egyptian authorities refuse to exchange television programmes with the Israel Broadcasting Authority, it was revealed yesterday at the authority's monthly plenum meeting.

Speaking of the recently concluded telecommunications agreement with Egypt, Yosef Bar'el, director of Arabic television, said the Egyptians at the talks had baulked at the idea of exchanging programmes because of a fear of boycott by Arab states. The Egyptians reportedly sell some $70 million worth of their TV productions each year to Arab states and during the talks argued that this export would be endangered.

Bar'el, during the review of the work of the Arabic TV and radio, said that Israel for the past years had been forced to purchase the programmes -- especially full length films -- originating in Egypt on "the black market." But he did not elaborate on where or how these programmes are obtained.

Bar'el said that he has it "on good authority" that Israel's Arabic TV broadcasts are received and listened to as far north "as some sections of Beirut and in southern Lebanon, in parts of Damascus and in Jordan." He added that due to its powerful transmitters, Israel TV Arabic broadcasts are received better in Aqaba than Jordanian TV and that Israeli broadcasts are picked up in parts of Amman with indoor aerials. To the south, the broadcasts are picked up along the Suez Canal, at Alexandria and, "occasionally, as far west as Libya."

David Sagyi, director of Arabic radio, said that because of the 1,200 kilowatt transmitter, the Arabic broadcasts are received as far north as southern Russia, as far east as Iran, as far south as south Yemen and Saudi Arabia, and as far west as Libya and the Maghreb [N.W. Africa].

According to Bar'el, who quoted a 1978 poll, some 97-98 per cent of east Jerusalem residents and some 86 per cent of Israel's Arab minority watch Israel television's Arabic news broadcasts. The figure for the West Bank is 92 per cent and for the Gaza Strip, 86 per cent.

Among Israeli Arabs. some 68 per cent regularly view the weekly news round-up programme (rising to 80 per cent among the more intellectual).

Bar'el cited three major causes for the lack of expansion or improvement in Arabic television -- the cutting off of the programmes at 8 p.m. (making them mostly family oriented), lack of funds and lack of manpower.

But Lapid said he did "not think Arabic TV and radio should be given more money, which would be at the expense of Hebrew broadcasts."

REPORTAGE ON AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE IN LUANDA

EA071440 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The Afro-Arab conference officially opened in Luanda yesterday. The opening session was chaired by Comrade Evaristo Domingos Kimba, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau, who represented Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the party and the republic.

The official opening session of the Afro-Arab conference, which is to discuss the strengthening of the awareness of the need for the freedom, independence and self-determination of peoples, was attended by 'Umar al-Hammadi, chairman of the international secretariat of the conference, Afonso van Dunen Mbinda, party Central Committee secretary for foreign relations; Sam Nuuoma and Oliver Tambo, presidents of SWAPO and the South African ANC respectively; and ('Abd al-Khayyad), a representative of the PLO. The main theses of the conference will be the struggle for peace and equality.

'Umar al-Hammadi, chairman of the international preparatory commission of the conference and chairman of the international secretariat, was the first speaker at the Afro-Arab conference. He began by stressing the importance of the conference and its positive (role) in the current struggle of the African and Arab peoples against the imperialist policy of aggression and oppression.

Al-Hammadi stressed that the fact that Angola was chosen as the (?venue of the meeting) was a result of its militant contribution to the cause of the Afro-Arab struggle. The chairman of the international committee and chairman of the international secretariat of the Afro-Arab conference stressed the need to strengthen solidarity and cooperation between the African and Arab peoples to confront imperialist aggression in Africa and the Middle East.

'Umar al-Hammadi also said that the conference is an opportunity not only to demonstrate A ro-Arab solidarity but also for a dialogue and coordination of ideas and efforts on the gravest problems affecting and concerning the Afro-Arab peoples.

The two regional organizations, the OAU and the Arab League, Al-Hammadi added, play an important role today in international affairs. In this context, it becomes imperative to do more for the liberation of the Afro-Arab peoples. 'Umar al-Hammadi went on to say that it is necessary to [words indistinct] of the heroes who fell [words indistinct] the alliance between the Zionists and racists and effectively support the struggle by SWAPO, the PLO and other Afro-Arab peoples in the struggle against imperialism and reaction.

In his speech 'Umar al-Hammadi referred to the economic cooperation between African and Arab countries. In this regard, the Arab official stressed the significant advance in economic relations between the African and Arab countries and expressed hope for better prospects in the future.

Al-Hammadi ended by hailing the Angolan people's contribution to the complete freedom and independence of African peoples despite the barbarous attacks by the South African racists.

Al-Hammadi speech was followed by an address by Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC of South Africa, who said that he brings (?warm) greetings from the ANC Executive Committee, South African people and the ANC Armed Forces to the Afro-Arab conference.

The forces of reaction are now acting with savagery, Oliver Tambo said. He recalled that the great economic potential of the Central African countries is becoming a target of imperialism which wants to exploit the resources for its own benefit.

The Pentagon, the White House and NATO wish to use our countries to ensure control over the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and the south Atlantic, Oliver Tambo said. He stressed that the Arab and African peoples have a major role to play in the struggle against the oppression of thousands of peoples by imperialism.

Oliver Tambo later denounced U.S. maneuvers in Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador, where it is trying to regain its position, saying that imperialism has three objectives: to strengthen the forces of reaction in Africa and the Middle East -- and he cited aparthied South Africa and Zionist Israel as examples -- to strengthen military actions in those areas with U.S. equipment and troops; and to destabilize progressive governments by replacing them with puppet regimes. Ronald Reagan's administration is carrying out a large-scale operation in southern Africa and the Middle East, President Oliver Tambo said. He recalled that the U.S. Government is preventing Namibia's true independence.

Reagan horrified the world when he affirmed that he is an ally of South Africa, Oliver Tambo said. He also recalled that the United States has resumed collaboration with Pretoria in the nuclear sphere by enriching uranium for South African plants.

Later, the ANC president said that Ronald Reagan's administration has stated that it would like to see the problem of the Palestinian people solved while at the same time it signed strategic agreements with Israel. It pretends to promote peace while it strengthens the Zionist state, Oliver Tambo added. The ANC president unmasked the collaboration between Israel and racist South Africa. He said it is part of the U.S. plans to surround the progressive countries with reactionary regimes.

Oliver Tambo also referred to imperialism's bases in Oman and on Diego Garcia and to the military maneuvers recently held by U.S. forces in African and Arab countries. The ANC president also condemned the hypocritical intentions of imperialism, for example, its refusal to recognize Resolution No 435 on Namibia, its desire to annihilate the ANC and SWAPO and the Palestinian people and their vanguard, the PLO, to encourage the illegal occupation of Western Sahara and to try to destroy the Polisario Front.

He added that the U.S. administration is continually provoking Libya and carrying out (?aggressive) acts against the Libyan people.

Before ending his address, President Oliver Tambo said that on 8 January 1982 the South African people and their allies throughout the world will mark the 70th anniversay of the ANO. He said the occasion will be used to reaffirm the reality of the South African people's power.

SWAPO President Sam Nujoma also addressed the conference and expressed deep gratitude to the Angolan people and the MPLA-Labor Party for their support for the struggle of the Nambian people.

Sam Nujoma said the Afro-Arab conference is an opportunity for the peoples struggling against racism, Zionism and exploitation, saying that it is taking place at a time when the people of Nambia led by SWAPO, of South Africa led by the ANC, of Western Sahara under Polisario leadership and of Palestine led by the PLO need specific diplomatic and political support to carry on the struggle for their total liberation.

The SWAPO president also denounced the massive support given by Reagan's administration to UNITA puppets and condemned the American policy of provocation against Cuba, Nicaragua and other Latin American countries.

The SWAPO president also denounced the terror imposed on the Namibian people, stressing that it constitutes a serious threat to the peoples of this southern region of the African continent. SWAPO's position of full acceptance of resolution No 435 of the UN Security Council on Namibia's independence was reiterated by President Sam Nujoma, who also denounced the close collaboration between Pretoria and the Zionist regime in Israel.

('Abd al-Khayyad), PLO representative, also addressed the conference. He referred to the strategic alliance between Israel and South Africa, particularly in the military and political spheres. He also referred to the seperate Camp David accords signed by the United States and Israel and to the threat posed by relations between certain African states and the Zionist regime in Tel Aviv. He said liberation movements in Africa and the Arab world should unite to put an end to the Israeli-U.S. threat.

The opening session of the conference concluded with an address by Comrade Evaristo Domingos Kimba, member of the party's Political Bureau, who represented head of state and government Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Domingos Kimba later referred to the arms race and U.S. decision to manufacture neutron weapons, thus spreading insecurity in the world. He said the NATO countries, particularly the United States, are (?spending more money) to increase their military strength. He said in 1981 the U.S. military budget was more than $180 billion. He said next year it will be more than $225 billion. In the next 6 years, the U.S. military budget will be $1.5 trillion. This will equal what the United States has spent in the last 20 years. [passage indistinct] He referred to the U.S. naval blockade of Cuba and its financial support for reactionary groups to destabilize the Caribbean region.

Comrade Kimba also referred to the (?contingent), particularly the Rapid Deployment Force created by the United States to become operational in 1982, a plan which will cost $10 billion and entail a military strength of approximately 110,000 men to operate mainly in the so-called third world.

He condemned the Camp David accords signed separately between Egypt and Israel, U.S. Military maneuvers and the recently signed strategic agreement between the United States and Israel. He also referred to the critical situation confronting Africa, particularly colonial situation (?resulting) from Morocco's obstinate behavior. Despite the OAU decision to the effect that country is intransigently (?occupying) Western Sahara, Comrade Evaristo Kimba said.

He also referred to the situation in Chad, (?which despite all OAU efforts), is facing chaos, panic and disorder as a result of action by Hissein Habre's reactionary forces.

He ended by calling for the strengthening of ties between the African and Arab peoples against the common enemy, imperialism.

Frelimo Delegates Speech

EA081402 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The Afro-Arab conference, which began in the Angolan capital yesterday, [as heard] now entered its second day. The conference activities yesterday were dominated by a plenary session during which a number of delegations expressed with firmness their total commitment to the common Afro-Arab struggle against imperialism for independence, peace and social progress.

During the plenary session, the Mozambican delegate, who is also the conference spokesman, addressed the conference. The delegate of the Frelimo Party vigorously condemned international imperialism headed by the United States which poses a direct and shameless threat to the peoples of Africa and the Middle East by using terrorist and puppet states.

By invading Angola and other frontline countries South Africa, by occupying with force part of the Arab territories, by violating Iraqi airspace and destroying the At-Tammuz nuclear center through Israel, by trying to annihilate the Palestinians and creating a situation of constant instability in southern Lebanon, imperialism has attacked and is attacking each one of us in order to appropriate our resources, our riches, considered [words indistinct] Frelimo noted. Thus, Frelimo notes imperialism shamelessly gives itself the right to defend the sources of our raw materials. It is trying to perpetuate its presence in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf by creating and, fomenting inter-Arab conflicts to accrue personal benefit.

With the same intent, imperialism is in South Africa, Namibia and Western Sahara. It is perpetuating instability in Chad. It poses as the world gendarme with the intent of (?perpetuating) the kind of law and order which best serves its interests. To this end, Frelimo notes, Israel and South Africa are provided with all sorts of technology and sophisticated weaponry to help them perform effectively in their role of advanced operational bases of imperialism.

Having referred to the various acts of destablization in various places, terrible and barbarous actions and the suffering of thousands of people, the Frelimo Party's delegate said: We are confronted with a war. We have to defend ourselves and win that war as it is a war against the freedom and dignity of the people of Africa and the Arab nation. Our peoples, said the Frelimo delegate, do not want war. The peaceful settlement of the Namibian problem entails the scrupulous implementation of Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council.

The Frelimo Party also called for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the fundamental and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to establish their own state. The recognition of the inalienable rights, self-determination, and independence of the Saharan and East Timor peoples were also defended by the Frelimo Party delegate at the Afro-Arab conference.

Seychelles President's Message

AB081334 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1255 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Luanda, 8 Dec (ANGOP) -- In a message to the Afro-Arab conference, Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles, expressed the conviction that this international meeting will help to strengthen solidarity and cooperation between the African and Arab states in their struggle against imperialist domination.

In his message, Albert Rene reiterated the solidarity of the people of the Seychelles with the liberation movements of Namibia, South Africa and Palestine, namely SWAPO, ANC and the PLO in their struggle for self-determination.

The Seychelles head of state is convinced that the success of the common struggle of the oppressed and underdeveloped people for their total liberation depends on economic cooperation based on promotion of the complementarity of their economies.

The recent attempted coup in the Seychelles and the economic sabotage of the Petrangol oil refinery, which were acts committed by South African mercenaries, were described by Rene as additional evidence of the increasing attempts to destabilize the progressive independent countries of the Third World.

According to the message, the absence of a Seychelles delegation is due to reasons connected with the recent attempted coup d'etat by the mercenaries.

REGIONAL FOOD COMMISSION MEETS IN ACCRA

AB081520 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] The second session of the regional food and nutrition commission for Africa opened in Accra this morning. The 4-day conference, which is jointly sponsored by the FAO, WHO and the OAU, will discuss among others farming in Africa, food and nutrition training and research for Africa. Food and nutrition activities of the sponsoring agencies -- the FAO, WHO and the OAU -- will also be discussed.

Opening the conference, the vice president, Dr Degraft Johnson, said it is unfortunate that 18 years after the formation of the commission, problems of food and nutrition in Africa have become even more acute than ever before in spite of the much-talked about Africa's enviable potential for food production. He observed that the commission was set up in 1963 to provide liaison at the regional level on food and nutrition in Africa and (?offer) advice to African governments on issues relating to food and nutrition. In spite of the high hope raised by its formulation, the commission never really took off and it was not until 1974 that it held its first session. The vice president said that it is obvious that the commission faces the serious problem of properly organizing itself to undertake its task. He called on the OAU member states to take up their responsibilities and face the commission's functions effectively.

Dr Degraft Johnson said: "All African states are now more than ever before committed to increasing their food production. What is needed is scientific information on soil types, crop yield and the like to enable African governments to plan their food programs. This is what the commission should aim at providing. He appealed to all (?agencies) involved in the work of the commission not to relent their efforts but to devote resources to help correct the current imbalances in the food situation in Africa.

LEADER SEES RELUCTANCE TO AID CHAD FORCE

AB031114 Paris AFP in English 1049 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Lagos, 3 Dec (AFP) -- Only Nigeria, Senegal and Zaire seem certain at the moment to take part in the inter-African Chad peace force, Nigerian Vice President Alex Ekwueme has said here.

Ekwueme told Nigerian media executives at a special briefing yesterday that of the three other states involved Benin was willing but had complained of lack of wherewithal. Togo was ambivalent and Guinea said it was willing to move its troops, yet it would not do so now because it was of the impression that the entire exercise was being teleguided by the French, according to reports today.

Mr Ekwueme reportedly said yesterday that oil-rich Nigeria might eventually find itself handling the Chadian crisis on its own, since even the countries which have sent troops might withdraw if the Organization of African Unity does not eventually take over the expenses.

LIBYA

JANA REPORTS U.S. PLANNED MEASURES AGAINST LIBYA

LD081950 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] New York, 8 Dec (JANA) -- The U.S. National Security Council yesterday held a meeting devoted to discussing the measures which the U.S. administration has been threatening to adopt against Libya and for which it has been paving the way with a series of fabrications and false allegations.

Quoting informed sources, a JANA correspondent reports in a New York dispatch sent at dawn today that the hostile measures the U.S. administration intends to adopt against Libya include a naval blockade, an economic boycott and an intensive diplomatic campaign to persuade friendly countries not to stand by Libya. The measures also include exerting greater pressure on the West European countries to involve them in the U.S. plan for a naval blockade.

Political observers, however, believe that none of these measures can be implemented and that even if they are implemented, they are unlikely to have any effect on Libya whatsoever.

A number of U.S. figures who took part early this morning in a special program transmitted by PBS, a national U.S. radio station, have affirmed that such measures cannot be implemented and involve calculated risks.

AL-'UBAYDI COMMENTS ON MOYNIHAN'S STATEMENTS

NC081200 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] New York Democratic senator and vice chairman of the Senate's Select Committee on Intelligence, the well-known American Zionist Daniel Moynihan, has persistently alleged that Libya has sent death squads to the United States to assassinate President Reagan. Moynihan informed the U.S. ABC television network that Al-Qadhdhafi constitutes a danger not only to the United States but also to his own people, as he alleged. Expressing his fanaticism and hatred, Senator Moynihan described the brother leader as a dictator and said the consequences would be grave for Libya.

Brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, has commented on Senator Daniel Moynihan's spiteful statements, refuting the lies and pointing out the implied malice and spite which expresses an evil spirit and show a bloody criminal behavior.

The brother secretary stressed that following the ABC interview with the brother leader -- in which he logically and reasonably exposed the false U.S. allegations on the existence of an alleged Libyan plot to assassinate Reagan -- Senator Moynihan spit out his venom and spite in a manner incompatible with diplomatic and ethical behavior. Moynihan lost his nerve after the U.S. accusation was met with logic and reason and the challenge to carry out an investigation of the U.S. allegations to show the American people and the Congress as well as the Libyan Arab people how the Reagan administration's lies deliberately mislead U.S. public opinion.

Al-'Ubaydi said that having failed to accept the challenge for an investigation, the U.S. administration's persistent false allegations and Senator Moynihan's nervousness confirm that this fanatical senator is unqualified for the post he occupies on behalf of the American people.

Al-'Ubaydi said Moynihan's allegation that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is a dictator confirms that this fanatical senator is ignorant of the true democracy being practiced in Libya. While the American people suffer under President Reagan's dictatorship his hostile behavior and a small group controlling the fateful decisions for the American people, we find that the Libyan Arab people are practicising democracy in their people's congresses -- which is the true democracy coveted by philosphers and humanists.

Answering Senator Daniel Moynihan's allegations that Al-Qadhdhafi constitutes a danger to his own people, the brother secretary said the Arab people in Libya realize that the real danger emanates from the United States which is planning to dominate our destinies, steal our wealth and return us to its area of influence. He wondered what danger there was to the Libyan people from a leader who turned the arid desert into agricultural projects, replaced huts with modern homes and applied the principle of authority, wealth and arms in the hands of the people. He added: We remind Senator Moynihan that the danger to the Libyan people and the Arab people in general emanates from what this senator is seeking to impose: U.S. domination and our people's subservience to the imperialist circles, similar to traitor As-Sadat and lackey Numayri.

Concluding this comment, Brother 'Adb al-'Ati al'Baydi emphasized that Moynihan's persistent allegations and U.S. claims of Libyan involvement in plans to assassinate Reagan make us wonder whether the U.S. CIA has an aggressive plan against the Jamahiriyah and the leader of its revolution, whether this plan dictates the creation of justifications and pretexts and whether the CIA will begin operations against U.S. officials, attributing them to the Jamahiriyah as a pretext for carrying out a hostile action against its people.

ARAB-U.S. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ON U.S. CLAIMS

NC090813 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Dr Muhammad al-Mahdi, chairman of the Arab-U.S. Relations Committee, in a press interview published in Washington last Monday, said the CIA has exaggerated its accusations in a way that led to destroying the freedom of the press and encroaching on the Arab and U.S. peoples.

Dr al-Mahdi condemned the U.S. allegations that Libya has been planning to kill President Reagan and challenged the U.S. administration to show evidence supporting its allegation in this respect. He noted that the false U.S. claims and allegations portray the ignorance of the U.S. Government. He said these false U.S. claims are aimed at deceiving U.S. public opinion in an endeavor to accept an agressive action against Libya.

TRIPOLI SEES CIA ROLE IN HIJACK OF LIBYAN PLANE

LD081420 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Terrorist elements who have infiltrated the ranks of the Shi'ite movement -- Amal -- in Lebanon have hijacked a Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing-727 passenger airliner on its scheduled flight No 163 returning from Zurich to Tripoli. These terrorist conspiring elements forced the aircraft to change course in flight in Italian airspace at about 1900 yesterday and ordered the captain to head for Beirut where it landed at Beirut International Airport at about 2205 Jamahiriyah time.

At 0315 today, 5 hours later, the aircraft took off from Beirut airport for Athens. JANA correspondent in Beirut said the terrorist pirates who belong to the Amal movement made demands before takeoff from Beirut airport, calling for the severance of diplomatic relations between Libya and Lebanon and the release of Imam Musa as-Sadr, who these conspiring elements claim is detained in Libya.

The correspondent, citing responsible political sources, said the aim behind these demands is to conceal the real motives of these elements and to conceal the fact that they were recruited by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency within the framework of the deceitful feverish U.S. campaign against Libya.

The JANA correspondent in Athens said the Libyan Arab passenger airliner, which was hijacked by these elements, landed at Athens airport at 0650 today Jamahiriyah time. In a later dispatch, the JANA correspondent in Beirut said that three terrorists armed with automatic weapons joined the original three hijackers in Beirut, thus the number of terrorists is now six.

In a telephone conversation before noon today, our correspondent in Beirut said one of these elements does not speak Arabic.

The hijacked Libyan Arab passenger airliner left Athens airport after having stayed there for 3 hours and headed for Rome where it landed at Ciampino airport before noon today.

With this terrorist action, these conspiring lackey elements are providing yet another proof that they do not belong to Arabism or Islam and are openly confirming that they are deeply involved in U.S. terrorist plans. All indications point to the existence of strong relations between the Amal terrorist elements who hijacked the Libyan Arab passenger airliner and the U.S. CIA.

Political sources in New York this morning revealed the threads of this relationship. They pointed out that the CIA has retreated from its previous claims and said that the informer who told the CIA about the alleged Libyan plot to assassinate U.S. President Reagan is not Libyan but Lebanese and works as an informer for the CIA. Political observers in Washington have linked the hijacking of the Libyan Arab aircraft to the new information revealed by the CIA today. Observers believe the hijacking operation is the first of the terrorist actions to be carried out by the U.S. CIA in its new campaign against Libya. They also believe the elements who participated in the hijacking operation and who are carrying out the same role as that of the Lebanese informer -- an agent of the U.S. CIA -- have infiltrated the Amal group. In this connection, political observers pointed out that a few weeks ago the well-known U.S. journalist Jack Anderson published an article in the Washington POST in which he revealed for the very first time that the U.S. CIA hatched a conspiracy to kidnap a Muslim leader directly after his visit to Libya in order to arouse the Islamic world againt the Jamahiriyah.

JANA Reports Tehran Landing

LD091014 Tripoli JANA in English 0937 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 9 Dec (JANA) -- Our correspondent in Tehran said that the Libyan airliner hijacked by infiltrated terrorist elements of Amal Shi'ite movement has landed at Mehrabad international airport at 4:30 a.m., Jamahiriyah local time.

PAPER EXPLAINS LIBYAN RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE

PM081021 Tripoli AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 30 Nov 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Third Rapid Deployment Force...But"]

[Excerpts] The great strategic task which Libyan officers and men, the brave liberators, carried out in Chad has added new glory to the glories of the Arab nation and a new remarkable history. The achievement of this task -- so efficiently and effectively -- has been an honor to all Arabs and to all Africa.

The task emanated from the Libyan people's belief in their fate and duty to support the peoples struggling for freedom. This people has honored the nation to which it belongs and the true Islam and true Muslims, who know that Islam is the religion of strength, dignity, right and justice.

It is no exaggeration to say nor is it a departure from the truth to declare that no other force could have carried out the strategic task which the Libyan forces carried out in Chad with the same comhat efficiency, speed and thorough coordination among units and services. This is to say nothing of the brilliant performances by the staff officers, junior officers and men.

The Libyan forces entered Chad at the request of the transitional government in Ndjamena and in accordance with a declared treaty about which all the world knew. Libya's intention was not to occupy and colonize Chad, as colonialist and Zionist circles alleged. These circles sounded their trumpets at full blast and filled the world with the din of their lies in an attempt to distort the historic, strategic operation which the Libyan forces carried out in Chad, which liberated an area half the size of Europe.

The United States, announcing the formation of the Rapid Deployment Force [RDF], declared it was forming this force to protect U.S. interests, which are interests of exploitation and zones of influence. The United States said that these U.S. forces will be ready to intervene to protect U.S. agents against whom their people rise. Nobody has ever heard of the so-called U.S. RDF or any other U.S. force intervening in any Third World country at the request of its people in order to support this people. U.S. forces intervene only against the peoples and against freedom. U.S. forces spread terror and destruction and set up agents as rulers of the peoples. The United States was aware of the blood that had been flowing from the Chadian people's wounds for 16 years and yet it did not care for this people and never said a word to contribute to the stability of the Chadian people.

Such brutal U.S. military force standing with the agent rulers and fighting on their side against freedom and in support of the persecution and humiliation of peoples must be faced by liberating forces that spread goodness, stability and peace instead of the U.S. evil and terror -- forces that support the peoples and freedom instead of supporting agent puppets. And since the peoples attach their hopes to the Jamahiriyah as a world revolutionary and progressive force and since the Jamahiriyah supports freedom on the basis of an ideology, a principle and an historic declaration of power for the people in which the Libyan people pledged to support morally and materially strugglers for freedom in any part of the world, it has become the Jamahiriyah's destiny to form this liberating force to stand up to the American arrogance and confront the U.S. RDF.

The revolutionary leader confirmed this when he said: It is our duty to form a rapid deployment force to support freedom and fight alongside the peoples so that our task is quite the opposite of the RDF's. We declare the formation of rapid deployment forces to fight alongside the people and for the sake of freedom.

PFLP CABLES SUPPORT TO LEADER AL-QADHDHAFI

NC080918 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] The leader of the revolution has received a cable from the PFLP, in which it declares, on behalf of its Central Committee and of various cadres and fighters, its strong denunciation of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots against the revolution of the Libyan Arab people and their brave leadership. The PFLP also declares its full readiness to fight alongside the Jamahiriyah's people, their armed forces and their revolutionary leadership in the front trenches in defense of the honor of our Arab nation.

MAURITANIA

CHIEF OF STATE RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM IRAQ LEADER

LD022212 Nouackchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] Within the framework of the fraternal relations between our country and the sister Iraqi Republic, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, this morning received Iraqi Minister of Religious Trusts Nuri Faysal Shahir, who delivered to him a written message from his Brother Saddam Husayn. The following is the text of the message:

His Excellency Brother Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, dear brothers: I received with the greatest pleasure your letter of 22 September 1981, which was brought to us by your special envoy, Capt Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Deh, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and minister of commerce and industry.

Our pleasure at receiving the letter was due to the kind feelings it conveyed -- feelings which we hope will continue to govern the fraternal relations between us and our two countries for the realization of their common hopes and the serving of Arab objectives. I was extremely interested in the matter covered by your letter. Out of our firm policy toward the fraternal Mauritanian Republic and out of our concern to preserve our fraternal firm relations, I wish to affirm to you, dear brother, that Iraq, with all its institutions, is concerned about [words indistinct].

On this occasion, I wish to express to you in the name of my brothers in the Iraqi command, and myself, our admiration for your fraternal stands in support of the just struggle of the Iraqi people in defense of the rights and honor of the Arab nation. I pledge to you to continue on the road of sacrifice, for this is our destiny and we have to shoulder it with all pride and glory. I wish also to assure you of our utmost concern to preserve the continued cooperation relations between our two countries in all fields. Iraq, with all its resources, will spare no effort to help its brothers in fraternal Mauritania.

Finally, dear brother, please accept my fraternal greetings and wishes of good health and success to you. God's peace and mercy be with you.

[Signed] Your brother, Saddan Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic

Nuri Faysal Shahir left Nouakchott this afternoon for Dakar after his 24-hour visit to Mauritania.

BRIEFS

FRG DEVELOPMENT LOAN -- A financial agreement today was signed between the FRG and the Mauritanian Government. Under this agreement, the FRG will give financial support to the Mauritanian Government for materials bought for the development of our country. The amount involved in this agreement, which was signed by FRG ambassador to Mauritania His Excellency Burghart Nagel and by Dieng Boubou Farba, our minister of economy and finance, is DM3 million, about 60 million ouguiya. [Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 7 Dec 81 AB]

SUDAN

PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO SYRIAN COUNTERPART

EA041900 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Dec 81

["Text" of message sent by President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the recent explosions in Damascus -- date not given]

[Text] To President Hafiz al-Asad, Syrian Arab Republic:

We have heard about the disaster which befell Damascus. We have sought refuge in the principles of our faith and of God's majesty and in the truth of his words to fill our hearts with the conviction that God defers but does not cancel anything.

What befell Damascus was the result of your efforts to disregard God's revelation of the Koranic verses and to extend the clouds of doubt in order to extinguish the fire of the Koran and put out the light of Islam. Seek among yourselves the basic principles of the region and remember that God's light will prevail despite the unbelievers. These are the people whom God describes as permanent dwellers in hell.

God has acted kindly toward his believers by revealing to them the true Islam whose teachings are as sublime as the majesty of the creator. Let us all strive on this road, for it is the right road. He who deviates from the truth will suffer losses.

Islamic law must establish justice and righteousness among Muslims. Justice is the way to bring tranquillity to the hearts of men. The first cannon of justice was confirmed by God almighty when he prohibited the murder of the soul except in the course of justice. Torturing people is contrary to Islamic enthics. To kill people en masse without a fair trial contradicts the straight and true law of Islam. It is easy to bring justice among the people. If you follow the way, your life will be joyful and God will reward and recompense you. Oh God, we are in your hands. You may wish to hasten or defer our chatisement. You are our God and we serve you. Do what you like for no one can revise your judgment.

[Signed] Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan

WESTERN SAHARA

MINISTER VIEWS SAHARA ISSUE, FRENCH ROLE

PM021115 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 27 Nov 81 p 10

[Francoise Germain-Robin interview with Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Information Minister Mohamed Salam Ould Salek in Algiers -- date not given]

[Excerpt] Algiers, 26 Nov -- [Question] The process of implementing the resolution adopted by the OAU on the organization of a referendum on self-determination for West Sahara seems at a standstill. What, in your opinion, should be done to get this process going again?

[Answer] We see the call by the United Nations -- which is to participate in the organization of the referendum and play a decisive role -- as both a means of exerting pressure on the Moroccan Government and a warning to that government. As far as the OAU is concerned, the implementation committee would normally invite Morocco and the Polisario Front to enter into negotiations under its auspices as soon as possible. But its efforts are being thwarted for the moment by the Moroccans' refusal to negotiate. It should be pointed out that the Moroccans are being encouraged in their intransigence by the U.S. administration's open support for their aggression against our country. This not only constitutes a serious obstacle to any hopes born in Nairobi for achieving peace, but could also have consequences for northwest Africa and the Mediterranean region, and even for Europe.

[Question] How do you evaluate the French position with regard to the conflict and what do you expect from France?

[Answer] The new situation in France must be reflected in a change of policy. We noted the declarations made by French officials immediately after 10 May, announcing France's recognition of the Saharan people's right to self-determination and its desire to see the restoration of peace on this basis in the Maghreb region. We believe the former government was sympathetic to Rabat's expansionist arguments and provided it with assistance which even included direct intervention alongside Moroccan forces. This policy damaged France's image and interests not only in the region but throughout Africa.

We can only trust in Francois Mitterrand's desire for change, change that also will extend to foreign policy. We believe there can be no cooperation in the region without peace based on respect for the rights of all the peoples of the region. France has a major role to play in this respect in order to remove all traces of the former government's policy on the one hand and to help the Saharan people to restore their rights, which have been recognized by the international community, on the other.

This is particularly important in the light of the current intervention by a superpower on Morocco's side. As a country on the north side of the Mediterranean, France is concerned.

We are, therefore, waiting for France to give concrete expression to the declarations made both before and after 10 May by its present leaders. We believe that continuing contacts between the Polisario Front and the French Government could help balance French policy on the West Sahara conflict.

KENYA

INVOLVEMENT IN SEYCHELLES COUP ATTEMPT DENIED

EA081208 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi said today that he was dismayed by international media reports alleging that one of the mercenaries had implicated Kenya in the recent attempted coup in the Seychelles.

In a letter to President Albert Rene of the Seychelles, President Moi noted that Kenya and the Seychelles had enjoyed cordial relations since independence. He added it was ridiculous and absurd for anyone to try and harm these relations with malicious and unfounded allegations.

Noting that Kenya had already publicly condemned the attack on the Seychelles by the mercenaries, President Moi emphasized that Kenya was not associated in anyway with the recent events in the Seychelles.

A press statement released by the Kenya Cabinet noted that the government considered this allegation to be ridiculous and absurd, adding that Kenya enjoyed exemplary records of cordial relations with all countries and that it had never interfered in the internal affairs of any country.

The Cabinet added that it was incomprehensible that anyone should try and harm these relations with malicious fabrications. The government made it absolutely clear that Kenya was not involved in any way in the recent coup attempt in the Seychelles and that it did not wish to be dragged into any aspect of it.

SEYCHELLES

PRESIDENT ASKS KENYA TO INVESTIGATE COUP

AB081209 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Exceprts] Victoria, 8 Dec (AFP) -- Seychelles President Albert Rene said today he would like the Kenyan authorities to investigate last month's abortive attempt by mercenaries to topple him, though he denied he was suggesting that Nairobi was involved in the plot.

President Rene was commenting to the national and foreign press on allegations made yesterday by a captured mercenary, Martin Dolinchek, that if the plot had succeeded a new government would have flown into Seychelles from Kenya.

Mr Dolinchek, who said he was a senior officer of the South African intelligence service, asserted, "The Kenyan government had agreed to provide two aeroplanes which would fly Kenyan soldiers and policemen to replace Tanzania troops which were believed to be in this country."

President Rene commented today that his government had no other facts but Dolinchek's allegations made some sense. He said he could not see how 44 mercenaries could take over his country unless they were to receive assistance of foreign governments.

The president alleged that a Beechcraft aircraft which was going to fly ex-President James Mancham back to the Seychelles once the coup succeeded had been chartered from the Sunbird Company in Nairobi.

The Seychellois leader made it clear that his government has so far formed no definite opinion on the allegations that Kenya was involved in the plot but said it had been obvious for a long time that some members of the Kenyan Government did not like the present system in Seychelles or the relationship his country had with Tanzania.

Mr Dolinchek said he was a senior South African intelligence officer who arrived in Seychelles as an ordinary tourist using the name Anton Lubic, Yugoslav born, an identity arranged through the Durban passport office. (South African sources have insisted that he left the intelligence service some two months before the mercenary attack).

According to photographs and plans allegedly found on the mercenaries captured, the coup was timed to coincide with a meeting of leaders of the ruling Seychelles People's Progressive Front. The mercenaries were to capture the leaders and secure control of Radio Seychelles and the airport until the arrival of assistance.

Mr Dolinchek alleged that Mr Mancham, who lives in exile in London, had met mercenary leader Mike Hoare at the Dorchester Hotel in September this year.

On the fate of the five captured mercenaries President Rene said investigations would be completed in two or three weeks time, and the men would be put on trial immediately afterwards. Capital punishment has been abolished in the Seychelles for murder but it exists for treason and President Rene has said there would be no charge to the country's law.

TANZANIA

FOREIGN MINISTER WITHDRAWS FROM UN RACE

EA082130 Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 1800 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Excerpt] The minister for foreign affairs, Salim Ahmad Salim, has asked the president of the UN Security Council to set aside his name from subsequent ballots that the council might hold for the election of a new secretary general.

In a statement to the press, Salim said that in his opinion the move will give possibilities for other candidates from the Third World to be considered, and for the council to make progress in its efforts to choose a new secretary general of the world body. Salim assured the president of the Security Council of his continued availability to serve the UN.

NYERERE CABLES SFRY PRESIDENT ON NATIONAL DAY

EA302210 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 30 Nov 81

[Text] President Nyerere pledged that Tanzania would work with Yugoslavia for the cause of social justice, international cooperation, peace and security for the benefit of mankind. In his speech [as heard] to Yugoslav President Sergej Kraigher on the occasion of the country's national day, yesterday, Mwalimu said Tanzania appreciated Yugoslavia's increased participation in the anticolonial struggle in southern Africa and her dedication to the ideals of nonalignment. Mwalimu observed that for years to come the nonaligned world will continue to share the heavy responsibility in the promotion and maintenance of global peace, security, understanding and mutual trust, despite its military and economic position.

GHANA

PAPER CALLS FOR RESTORING TIES WITH ISRAEL

AB071401 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The PALAVER notes that before Ghana and other members of the OAU decided to sever diplomatic relations with Israel, there were many Israeli experts in the country working on a number of projects. Although Ghana stood to lose by such a decision, the PALAVER thinks that the country was bound by the OAU decision which seems to have ignored the realities of the times.

It says with the Camp David agreement coming into force, the decision to sever ties with Israel no longer makes sense. This is because Egypt, which spearheaded the war against Israel, has restored relations with Israel and opened her doors to the Jewish state in that turbulent part of the world.

It is the view of the PALAVER that since the OAU is reluctant to reverse its decision, Ghana can and must unilaterally restore its relations with Israel to take full advantage of the bilateral agreement that existed between the two countries before the break in relations. It says this course of action would not be tantamount to violation of the OAU Charter but would serve the best interests of Ghana since few, if any, OAU member states are willing to come to Ghana's aid in her present economic crisis.

The PALAVER says the time has now come for Africans to be realistic in their evaluation of the situation in the Middle East, for we cannot sacrifice our pride and self-interest on the altar of geopolitical naivety and ideological conflicts which only go to benefit our Arab brothers to the disconfiture of Africans south of the Saraha.

NIGERIA

NEWSWEEK REPORT ON AIRCRAFT SALE DENIED

LD081124 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Nigeria has cateogrically refuted a publication in the American news magazine NEWSWEEK to the effect that apartheid South Africa sold to her a trainer aircraft. An official statement in Lagos yesterday described the report as misleading. It is also a calculated attempt by the racist regime and her Western allies to tarnish Nigeria's reputation and stultify her contribution to the struggle for total freedom in southern Africa.

The statement pointed out the racist clique deliberately sponsored the fabricated article with a view to misleading the international community and further its desperate bid to promote trade relations with African countries. It added that the sinister maneuver was a clever ruse to advertize the stockpile of arms manufactured by the racists with assistance of their allies to throw African nations into fright. The statement made it clear that Nigerian import licences were not valid for importation from apartheid South Africa. It reiterated the focal point of the country's foreign policy had been and will continue to be Africa. In its actions and utterances Nigeria demonstrates to the world her total commitment to the struggle against the evils of apartheid system in all its forms. The statement reaffirmed Nigeria's strong support for Namibia's struggle against racist oppression. It declared there is no amount of propaganda that can divert Nigeria from her dynamic African policy.